WATARU WATANABE
渡
辺
航

天気のいい日は自転車とでかけよう！
一人でも楽しい！
仲間とだったらもっと楽しい！

（埼玉県　荒川サイクリングロード）

SHONEN CHAMPION COMICS

弱虫ペダル 23

渡辺航

WATARU WATANABE PRESENTS

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秋田書店

ISBN978-4-253-21476-6
C9979 ¥419E (0)

9784253214766

雑誌 40087−18

1929979004194

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定価：本体419円＋税

赤いマメッブ

赤い頭
赤いピナレロ
スプリンター！
鳴子章吉が
チームを引く！
そして舞台は、
ラストステージ
富士の山へ!!

沸く観客!!

少年チャンピオン・コミックス
SHONEN CHAMPION COMICS

少年チャンピオン・コミックス

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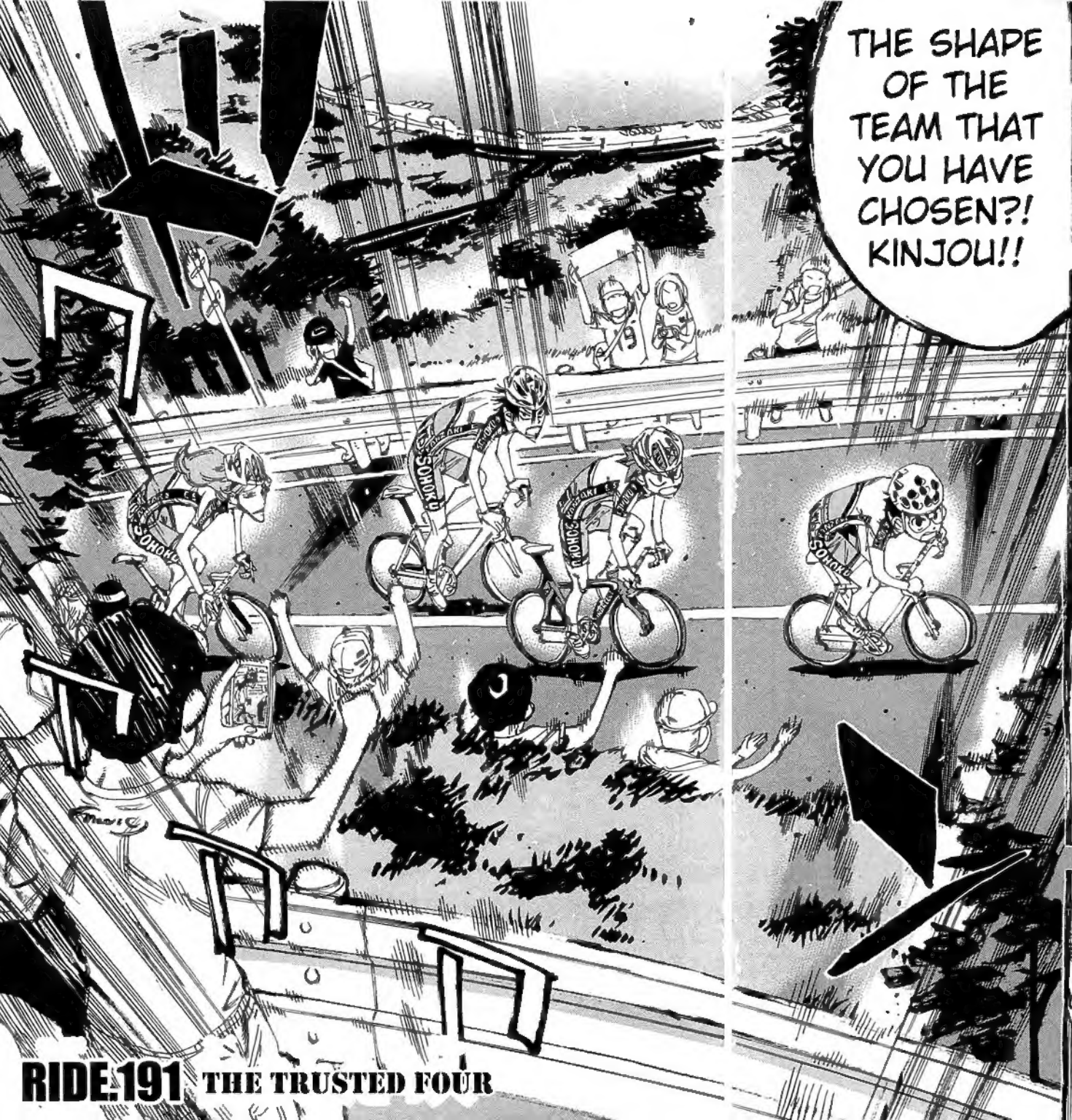
東京　秋田書店　発行

弱虫ペダル

RIDE.191 THE TRUSTED FOUR

I CAN HEAR THE CHEERING BELOW!
SOHOKU IS COMING!!
FUKUTOMI-SAN!
AND WORN DOWN FROM THESE PAST THREE DAYS, SOHOKU WOULD HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO SEND
...OR, SO I THOUGHT, BUT...
THE UNBELIEVABLE HAS HAPPENED.
MAKISHIMA TO HEAD ALONE FOR THE FINAL GOAL.
WITH THEIR ACE KINJOU INCAPABLE OF MAKING THE FINISH LINE...

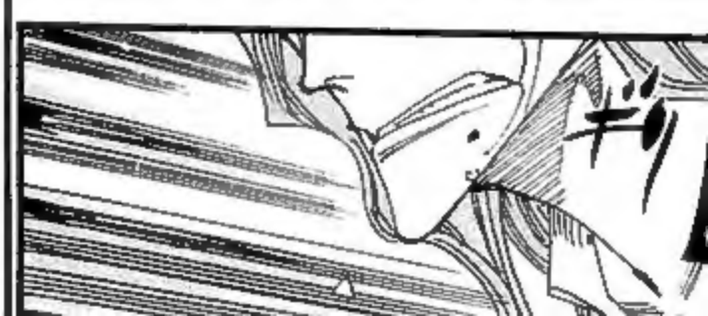


RIDE.191 THE TRUSTED FOUR

TO THINK THAT THEY WOULD LEAVE THEIR ACE
AND USE THEIR FIRST-YEARS WITH NO EXPERIENCE AT IN-HIGH TO RACE
IN THIS VERY LAST STAGE, THE MOST IMPORTANT STAGE OF ALL!!

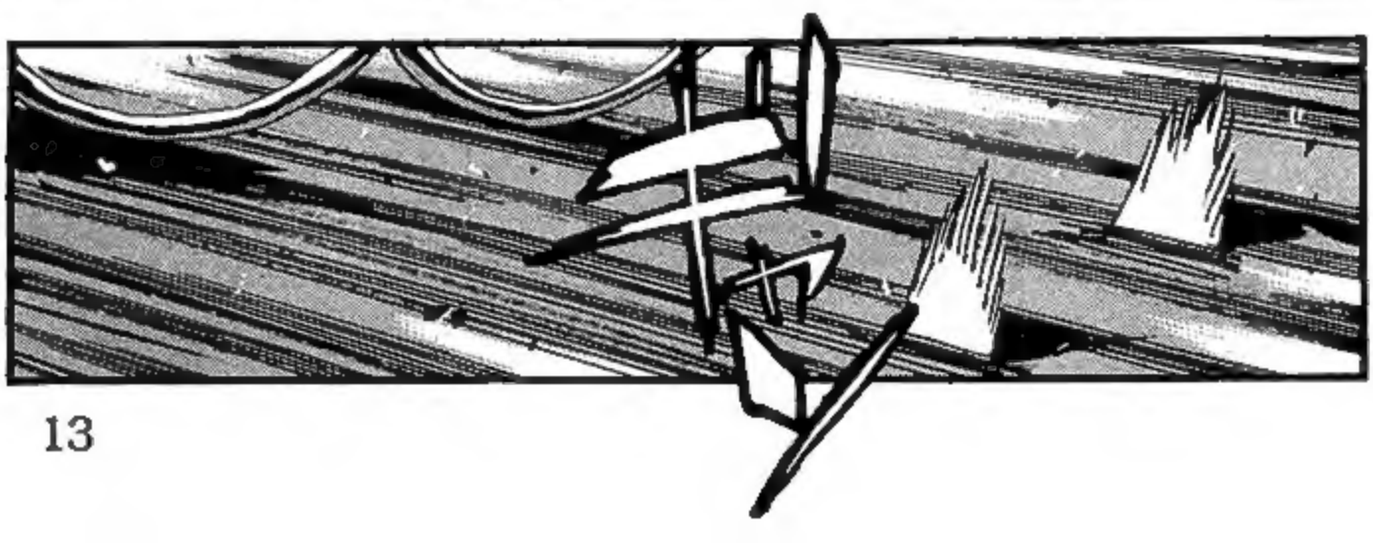
LET'S GO!!
YES, SIR!
YES, SIR!

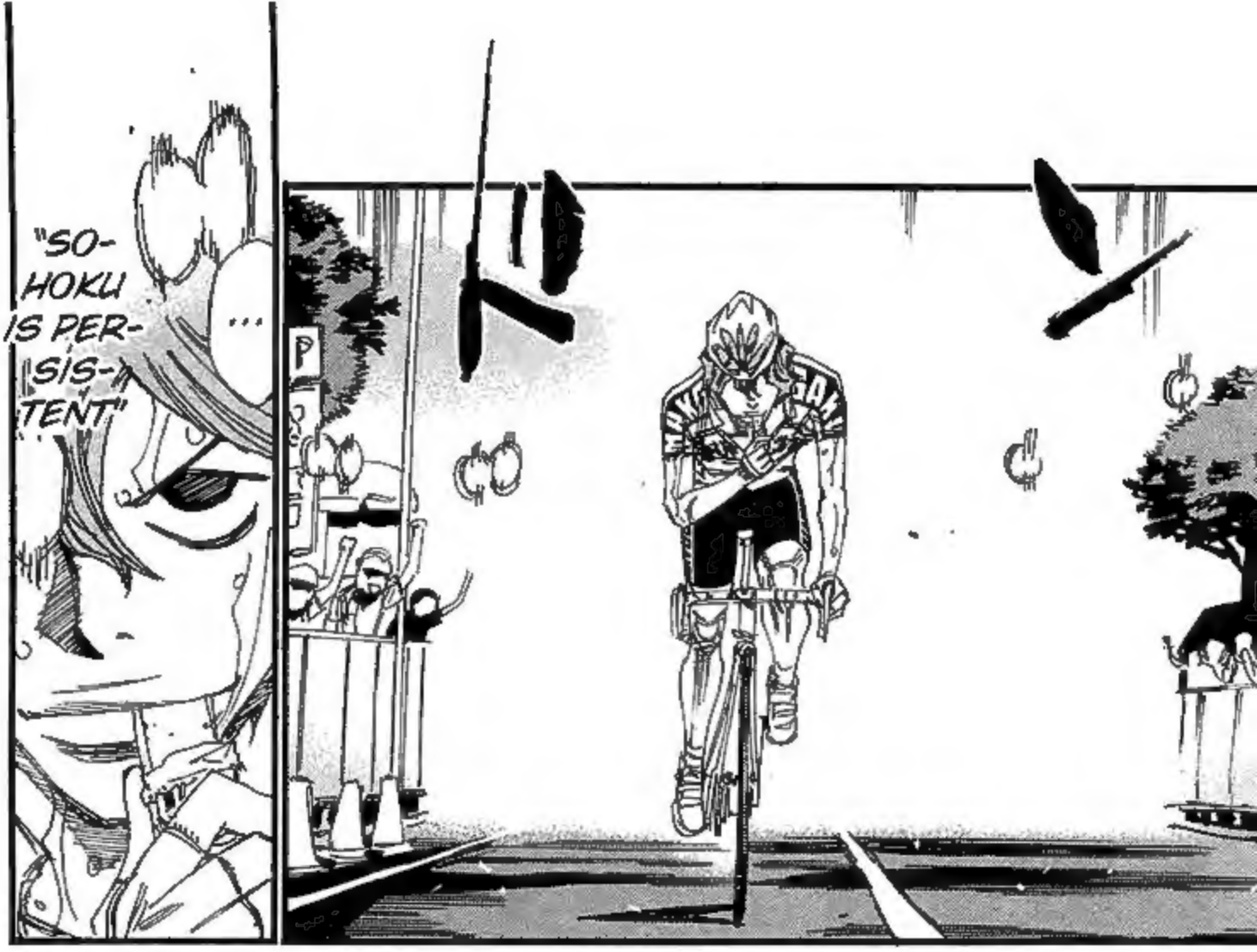
"BRING THIS JERSEY THROUGH THE GOAL FASTER THAN ANYONE ELSE"
"CLIMB UP THE MOUNTAIN WITH MAKISHIMA"



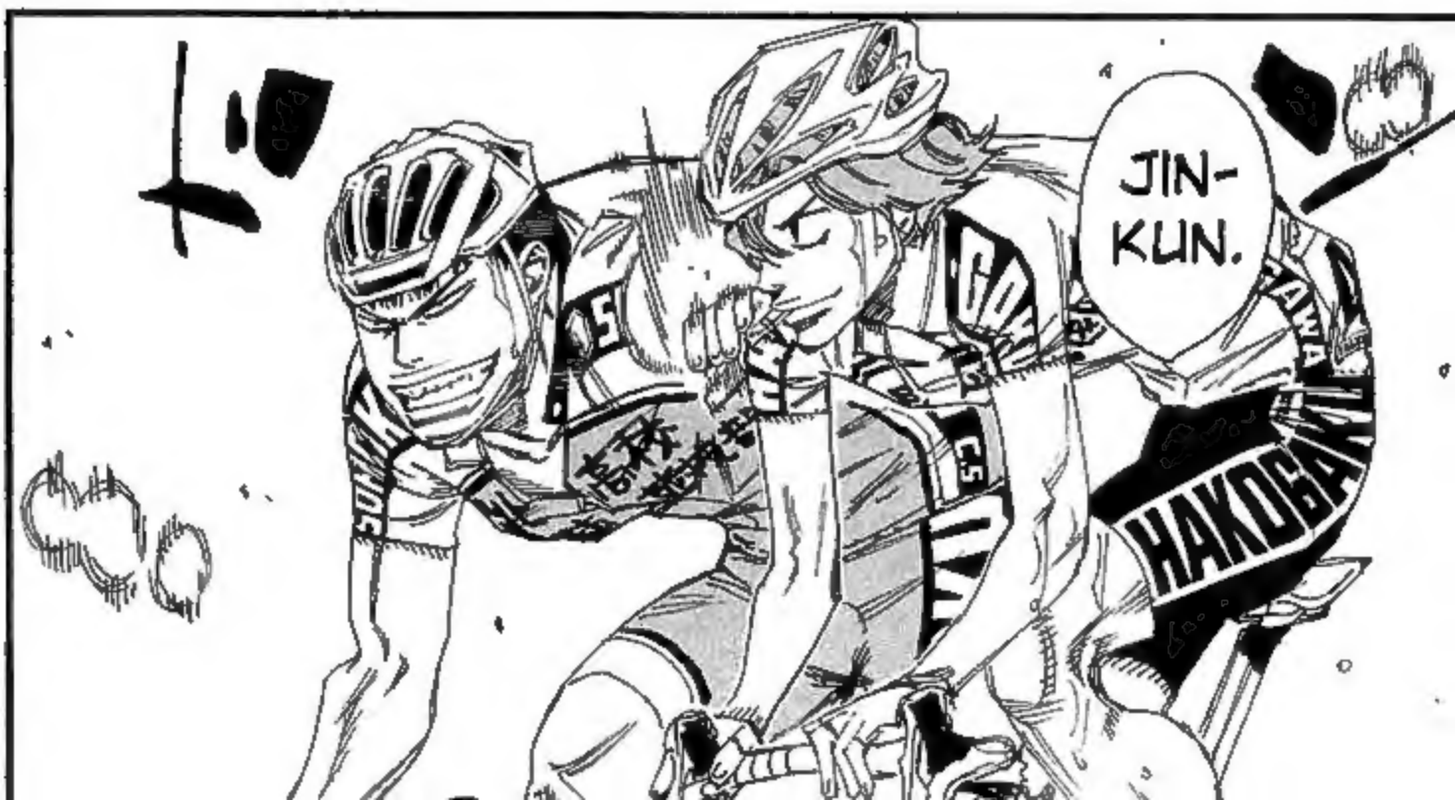
HAKO-
GAKU
!!

ROOOH
BRING THIS JERSEY THROUGH THE GOAL!!
THAN ANYONE ELSE!!
RAAH
FASTER !!
AAAAH

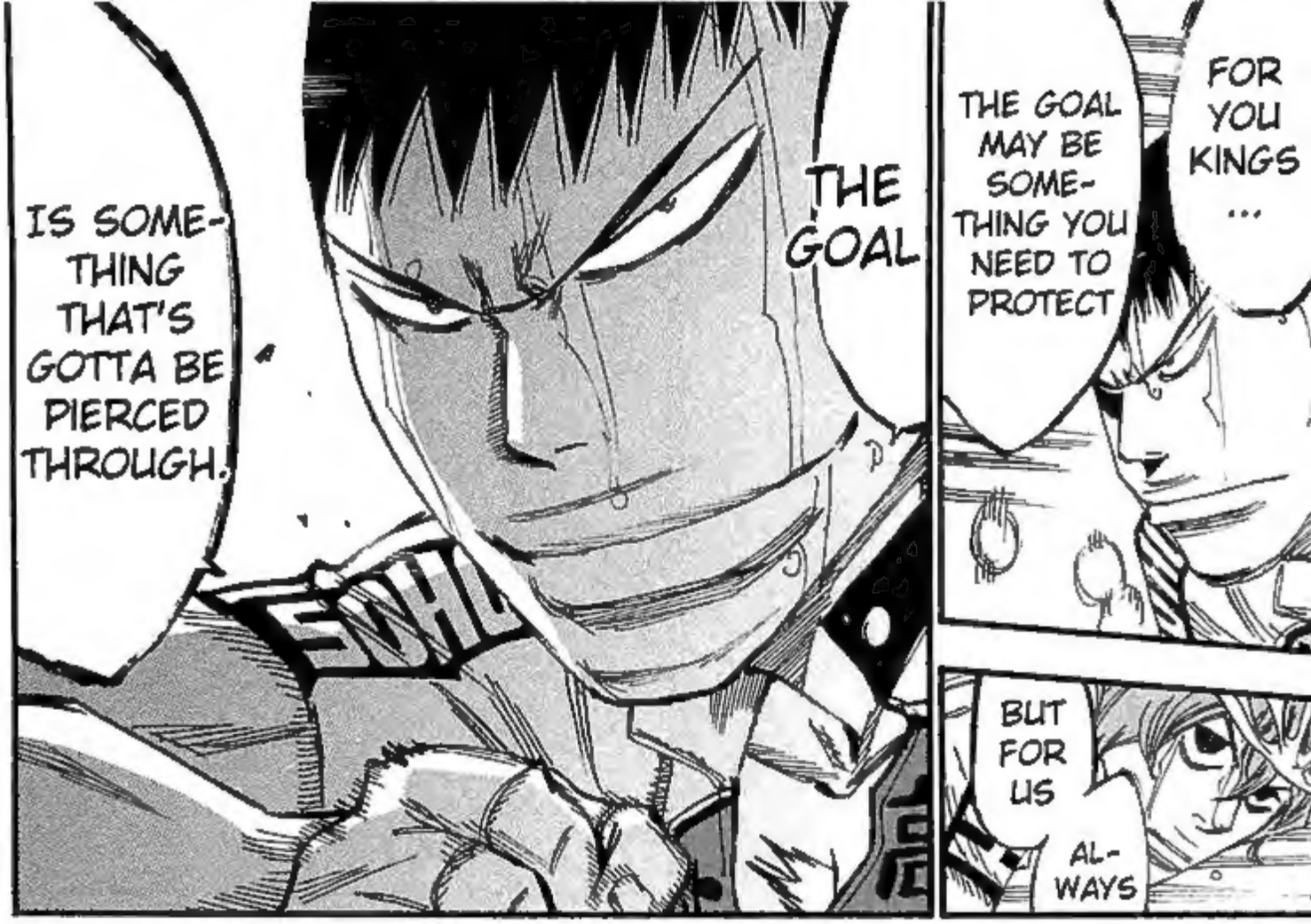



"SO-HOKU IS PER-SIS-TENT"
...

...IT NEVER EVEN OC-CURRED TO ME.
I SURE DIDN'T EXPECT YOU GUYS TO HEAD FOR THE LAST MOUNTAIN IN THAT WAY.
YOU WERE RIGHT, IMA-IZUMI-KUN.


JIN-KUN.
HAKOBAN

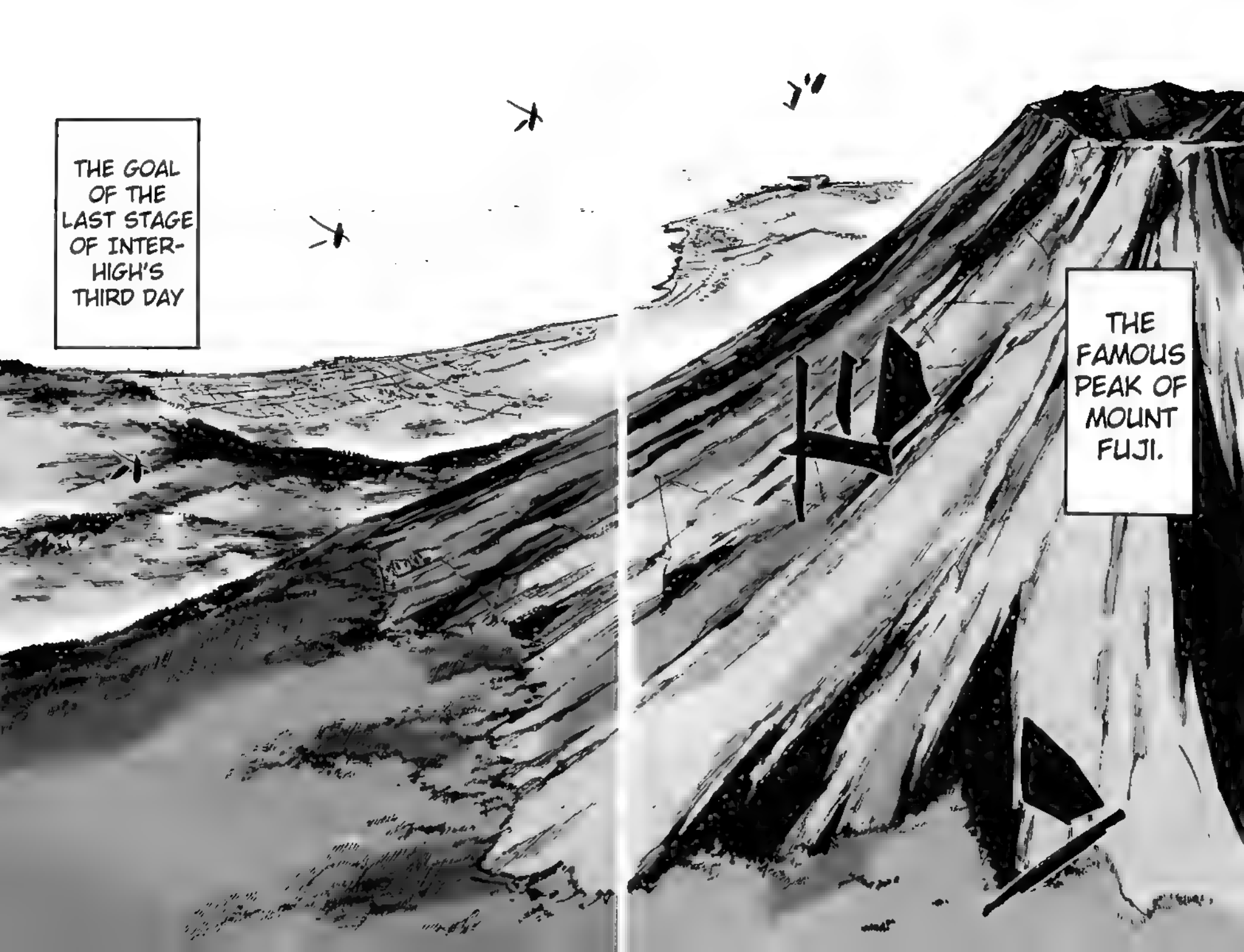
IT WAS A GOOD FIGHT !!
FOR THE BOTH OF US!!
KEEP YAP-PING, SHIN-KAI.
LINE UP SIDE BY SIDE AGAIN.
WE
BUT
...I DIDN'T EXPECT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO KINJOU EITHER.
IT STAYED CON-NECTED.
NO MATTER HOW THIN THE "STRING" IS
AS LONG AS IT KEEPS US CONNECT-ED
THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS!!
JUST THAT FACT IS ENOUGH.


IS SOME-
THING
THAT'S
GOTTA BE
PIERCED
THROUGH.
THE
GOAL
THE GOAL
MAY BE
SOME-
THING YOU
NEED TO
PROTECT
FOR
YOU
KINGS
...
BUT
FOR
US
AL-
WAYS

HM
?
DID YOU
SAY
SOME-
THING?
JUICHI...
WHAT YOU
MENTIONED
ABOUT
SOHOKU AT
THE START-
ING LINE... I
THINK I GET
NOW WHAT
YOU MEANT.
HEH.

ON THE
MOUNTAIN
STAGE.
THE LAST
GOAL OF
INTER-HIGH'S
THIRD DAY IS
AT A
RIGOROUS
HEIGHT
NAH,
JUST
TALKING
TO
MYSELF.
JUICHI...
I'M
COUNTING
ON YOU.

ON PRE-FEC-TURAL ROUTE 150...
IT'S A STAGE FIT FOR HELL.
UP AHEAD IS A STEEP SLOPE THAT SOME-TIMES GOES ABOVE A 20% INCLINE.
STARTING AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN ON SUBASHIRI TRAIL...
WHAT LIES AHEAD IS...
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE AZAMI LINE"
I'M COUNT-ING ON YOU, MAKI-SHIMA... FIRST-YEARS !!


THE GOAL OF THE LAST STAGE OF INTER-HIGH'S THIRD DAY
THE FAMOUS PEAK OF MOUNT FUJI.

AT THE END OF THE FUJI AZAMI LINE.
IS AT THE FIFTH PARKING LOT WHERE THE ROAD ENDS

*MT FUJI SUBASHIRI TRAIL, FIFTH PARKING LOT. NO ROAD UP AHEAD.

THE ROAD BEFORE THE GOAL HAS ABSOLUTELY NO FLATS. IN OTHER WORDS,
AT AN ELEVATION OF 2,000 METERS, WHERE YOU COULD EVEN SEE CLOUDS BELOW
富士山須走口五合目
GOAL
THE GOAL LIES AT THE UTMOST PEAK.

I FEEL ON THE VERGE OF PASSING OUT BY JUST LOOKING UP
YEP !!
WE SHOULD START CLIMBING TOO, HUH?
WELL THEN
YEAH !!
GEH.
SONOKU
KANZAKI
SONOKU
KANZAKI
THANKS !
WANT ?
KANAI
HAKOGAKU

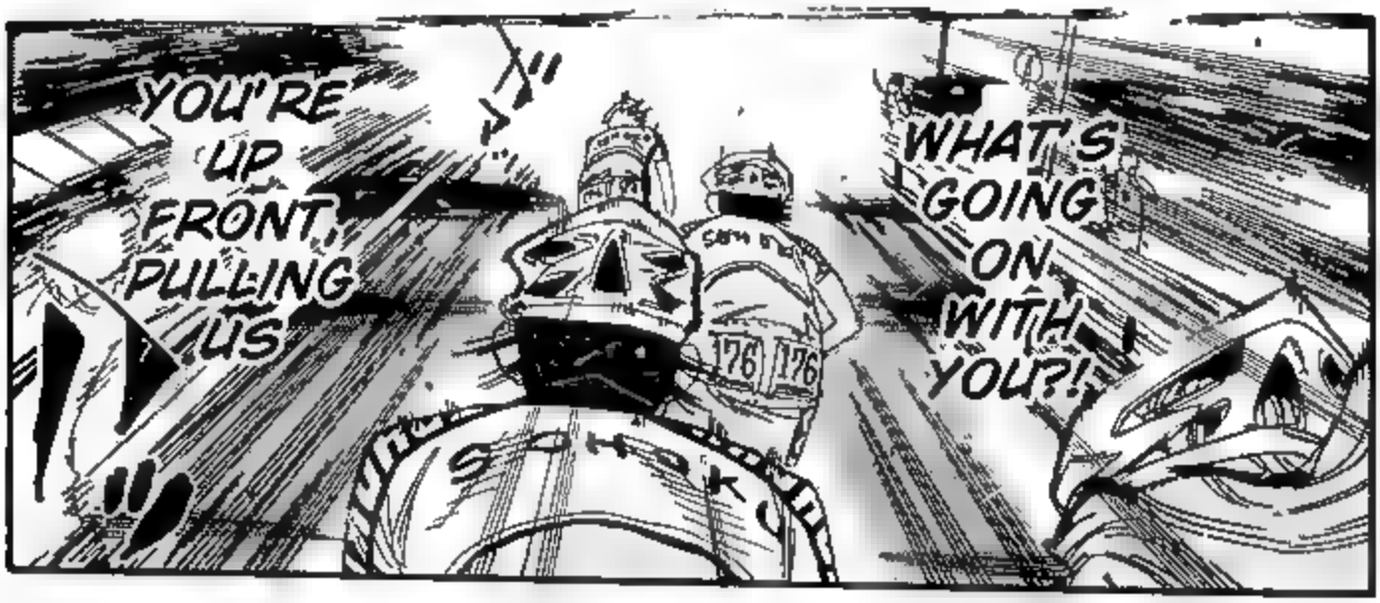
SORRY TO SAY THIS, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO ABILITY
WE HAVE MANAMI, JINPA-CHI, AND JUICHI.
OUR FORMATION IS PERFECT
DO YOU THINK SOHOKU WILL CATCH UP?
...
NOT EVEN ONE!!
HAVE YOU GUYS GOT A STRAT-EGY?
AND WORK WITH IT.
THE STRATEGY IS THAT THEY'LL READ WHATEVER THE CIRCUM-STANCES THEY'RE IN AT THAT TIME
FOR THE REST, THEY'LL GO WITH THE FLOW.
THEY'RE PROBABLY MAKING DO WITH WHAT THEY'VE GOT, SINCE THE VERY MOMENT THAT KINJOU STEPPED DOWN.
SOHOKU
AND YOU THINK THAT GUY... CAN CATCH UP TO HAKOGAKU?
ESPE-CIALLY FOR THAT IDIOT
IN A SITUA-TION LIKE THIS.
GAHA, IT'S BETTER FOR US THIS WAY.
THAT'S NOT VERY SYSTEM-ATIC.
AFTER ALL, WE'VE GOT ON OUR TEAM
YEAH. HE'LL PROBABLY SURPRISE YOU GUYS.

HERE I GO!
I'M GONNA CATCH UP!
HERE I GO!
SWITCH, ONODA-KUN!!
A RED BEAN WHO DOESN'T KNOW ANY LIMITS!!
SOHOKU
HANZAKI
PINARELLO
HE'S SO RED!!
WHAT'S WITH THAT GUY?
NARUKO-KUN ...
SPRINT CLIMB!!
HE'S USING HIS LOWER HANDLE-BARS ON A CLIMB?!
OKAY!!

ORYAAAAAAAH
I'M NANIWA'S SPEED-MAN
SO-HOKU'S GENIUS ROCKET-TER
OUTTA MY WAY !!
NARU-KO!!!
I DON'T KNOW HE COULD CLIMB LIKE THIS!
NARU-KO!
NARU-KO SHOU-KICHI !!
THAT WAS
WHA...
WAT...
ISN'T
NA-RU-KO-KUN !!

ISN'T HE A SPRINT-ER?!
COME ON
COME ON
COME ON!
MY REAL WORTH!!
I'LL SHOW YA

RIDE 192 NARUKO'S REAL WORTH



THE GENIUS ROCK-ETTER, NARUKO SHOU-KICHI!!
WHAT'S WITH THAT GUY?!
HE'S USING HIS LOWER HANDLE-BARS ON A CLIMB!!
HE'S A FIRST-YEAR?! NO WAY!!
THIS IS A SLOPE ...
ISN'T THAT GUY A SPRINT-ER?
YOU'RE RIGHT, HE'S REALLY RED!!
WHOA. SO-HOKU!! LOOK AT THAT RED!!
I'M NANI-WA'S RED BULLET !!
RIDE.192 NARUKO'S REAL WORTH

BRING ON MORE OF THAT CHEERING !!
CHEER !!
ORYAAAAAH !!
I CAN STILL CLIMB FUR-THER !!

HE'S FAST !!
HE'S CLIMB-ING
RED BULLET ?!
WHOA !!
21

KWAH !!
WHAT HAP-PENED TO YOU, NARU-KO!!

YOU'RE AMAZING, NARUKO-KUN!!

NA-RU-KO!!
WHO ONLY SPECIALIZED IN SPRINTING, WEREN'T YOU?!
YOU'RE A SPRINT-ER

DAMN IT
DAMN IT
HE KEPT PRAC-TICING ALL ON HIS OWN
AFTER THE FIRST-YEAR RACE ON MINE-GAYAMA WHERE HE LOST SPEED...
I KNOW THE TRUTH.
NO.
"SPRINT CLIMB"?

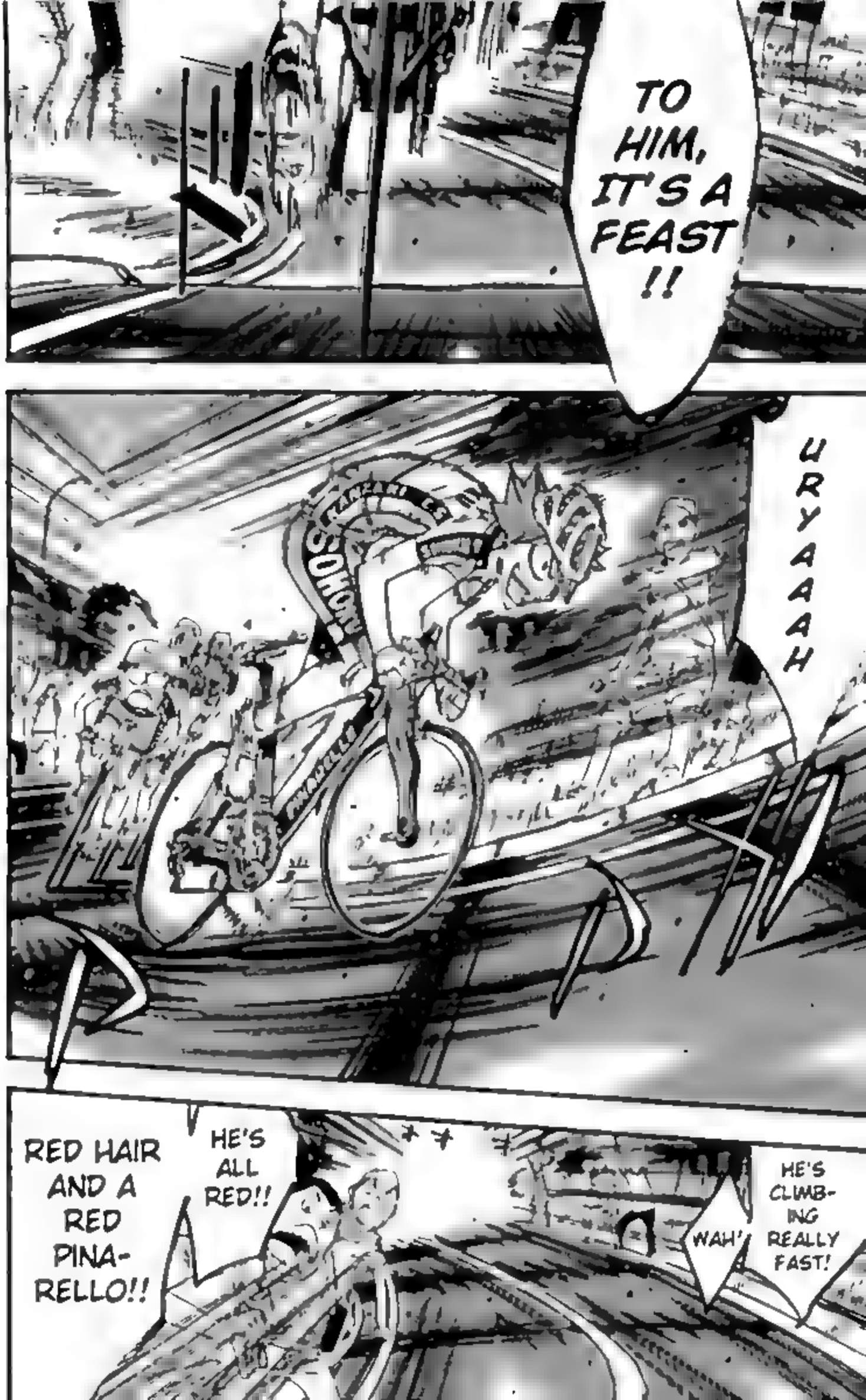
FROM "BEING ABLE TO CLIMB FAST"!!
...BUT "BEING ABLE TO CLIMB" IS DIFFERENT

RIGHT NOW

IN ORDER TO CON-QUER THAT SLOPE.
THAT DAMN HOT-SHOT!!
RAAH
WHY AM I HIDING...

HE IS CLIMB-ING FAST !!
I CAN'T KEEP MY EYES OFF OF HIM, FOR ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT REASONS THAN I CAN'T WITH ONODA!!
HE'S IN-TEREST-ING, THAT GUY!
KWAH !!
EH ?!
YOU BET HE HAS !!
M-MAYBE HE'S E-EATEN SOME-THING PARTICU-LARLY TASTY?
HA HA
N-NARUKO-KUN IS AMAZING!

ON THE UPHILL SLOPE OF THIS INTER-HIGH'S LAST STAGE ...
175
SOHOKU
173
KANZAKI

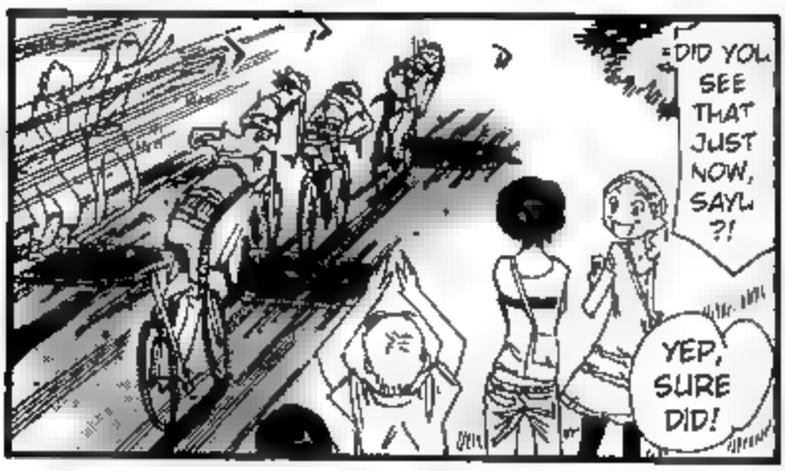

TO HIM, IT'S A FEAST !!
URYAAAH
RED HAIR AND A RED PINA-RELLO!!
HE'S ALL RED!!
WAH!
HE'S CLIMB-ING REALLY FAST!

PINARELLO
KEEP CHEER-ING!!
SOHOKU IS SO FAST!!
EVEN HIS RIDING IS FLASHY!!
SOHOKU
THIS VERY SITUA-TION, THAT IS!!

SIT-
UA-
TION
?!
SOHOKU
SHIMANO
YOU GO!! CATCH UP TO HAKO-GAKU!!
SO
THAT IDIOT--
THAT'S DAN-GERO--

10
FOR YER SUP-PORT !!
THANKS A BUNCH
SOHOKU
SO-HO-KU !!
YOU CAN DO IT!!
I'M GONNA CHEER FOR SO-HOKU.
A SPEC-TATOR
HE HIGH-FIVED
SO-HO-KU !!
SO-HO-KU !!

THANK YA!!
THANK YA!!
THANK YA!!

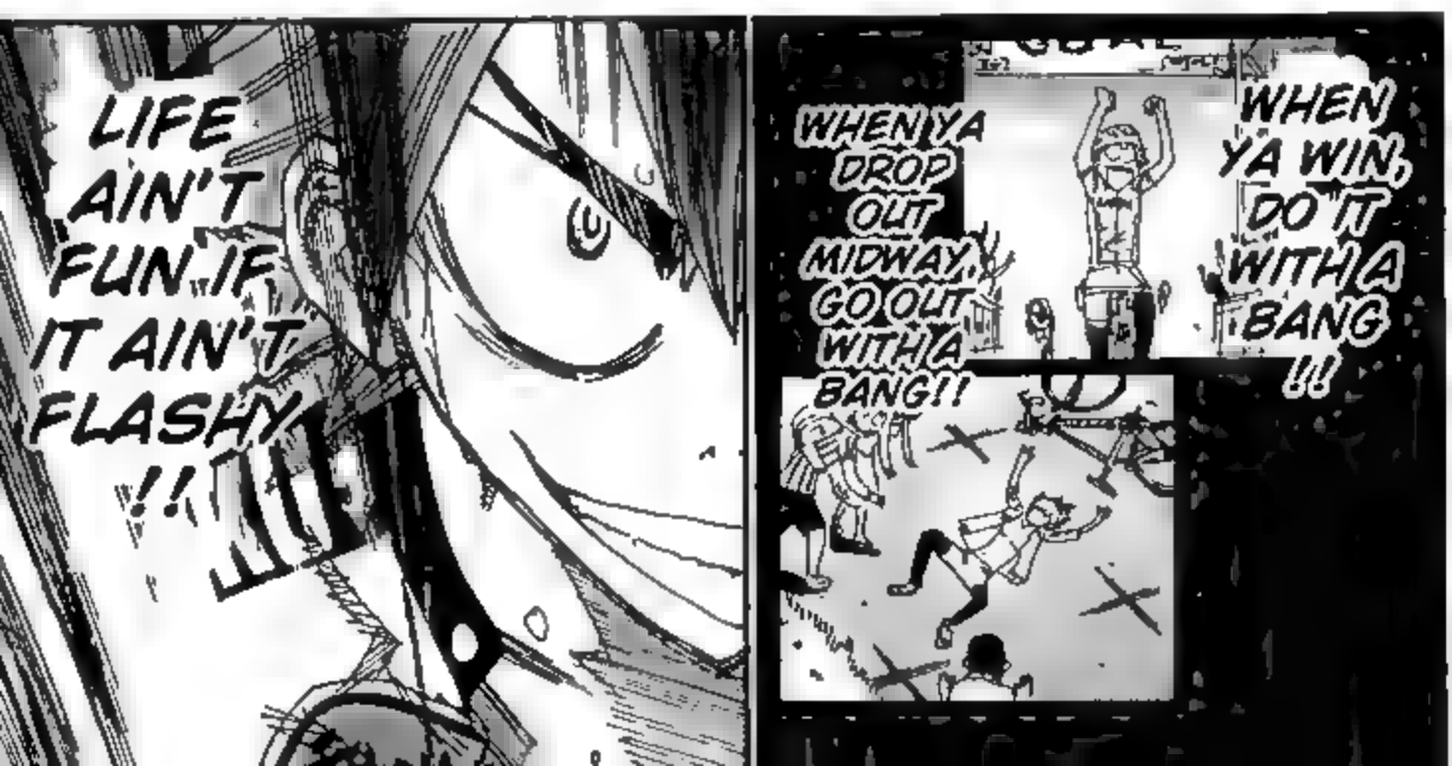

DID YOU SEE THAT JUST NOW, SAYU ?!
YEP, SURE DID!

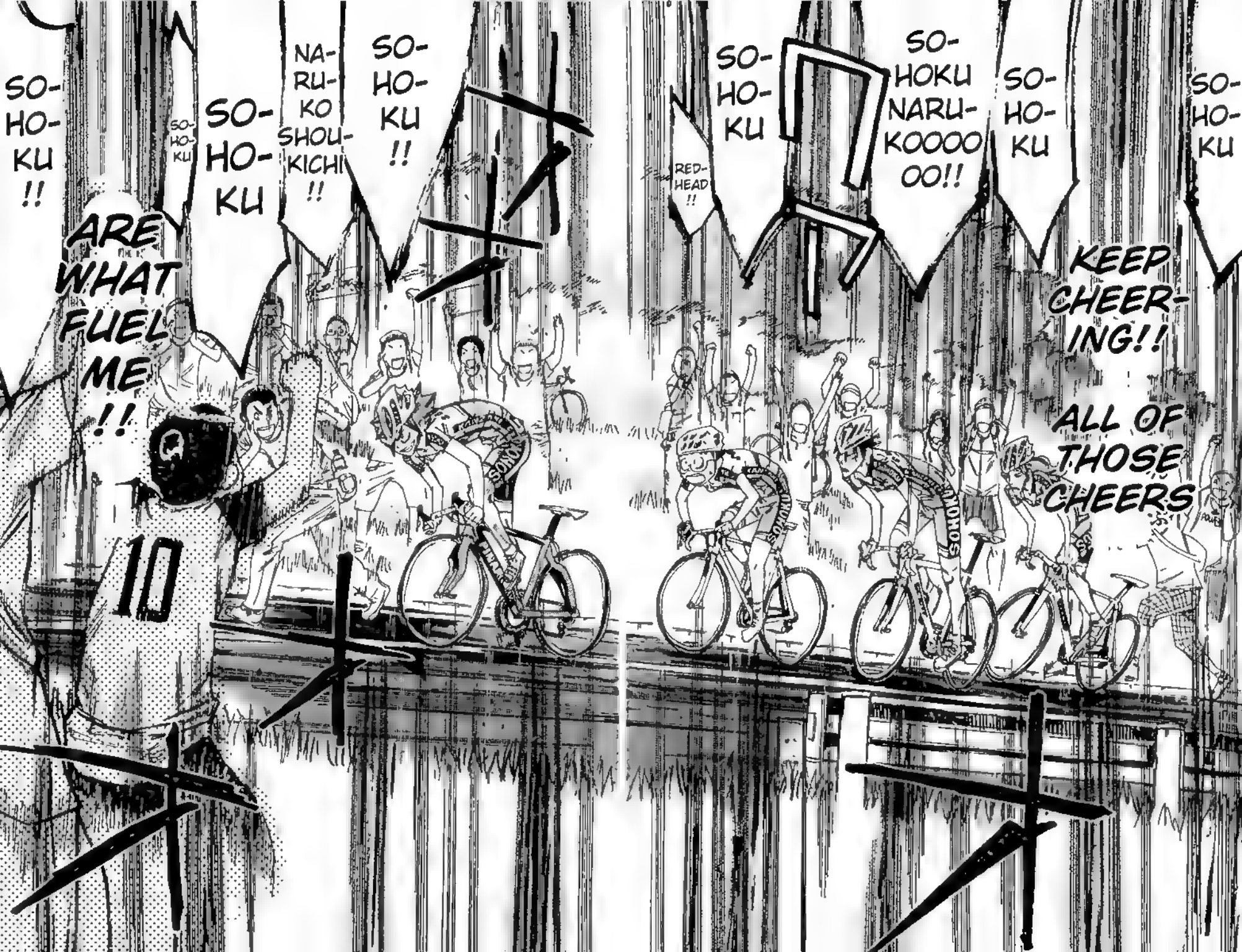
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, NARUKO ?!

HE'S SO COOL !!

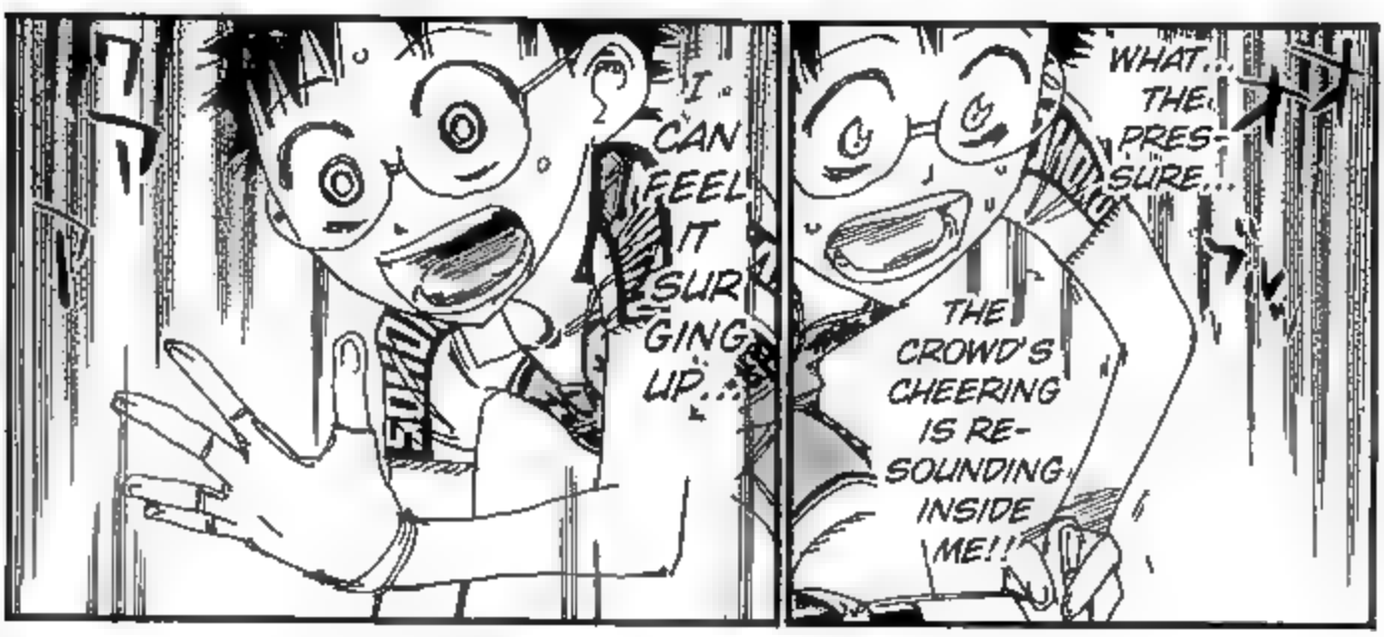
SO-HO-KU !!
SO-HO-KU !!
WH OAA AA!
SO-HO-KU !!
HE'S FACING THE CAMERA!!
SO-HO-KU !!
THERE'S AN INTEREST-ING GUY OVER THERE!
LET'S CHEER FOR SOHOKU !!
SO-HO-KU !!

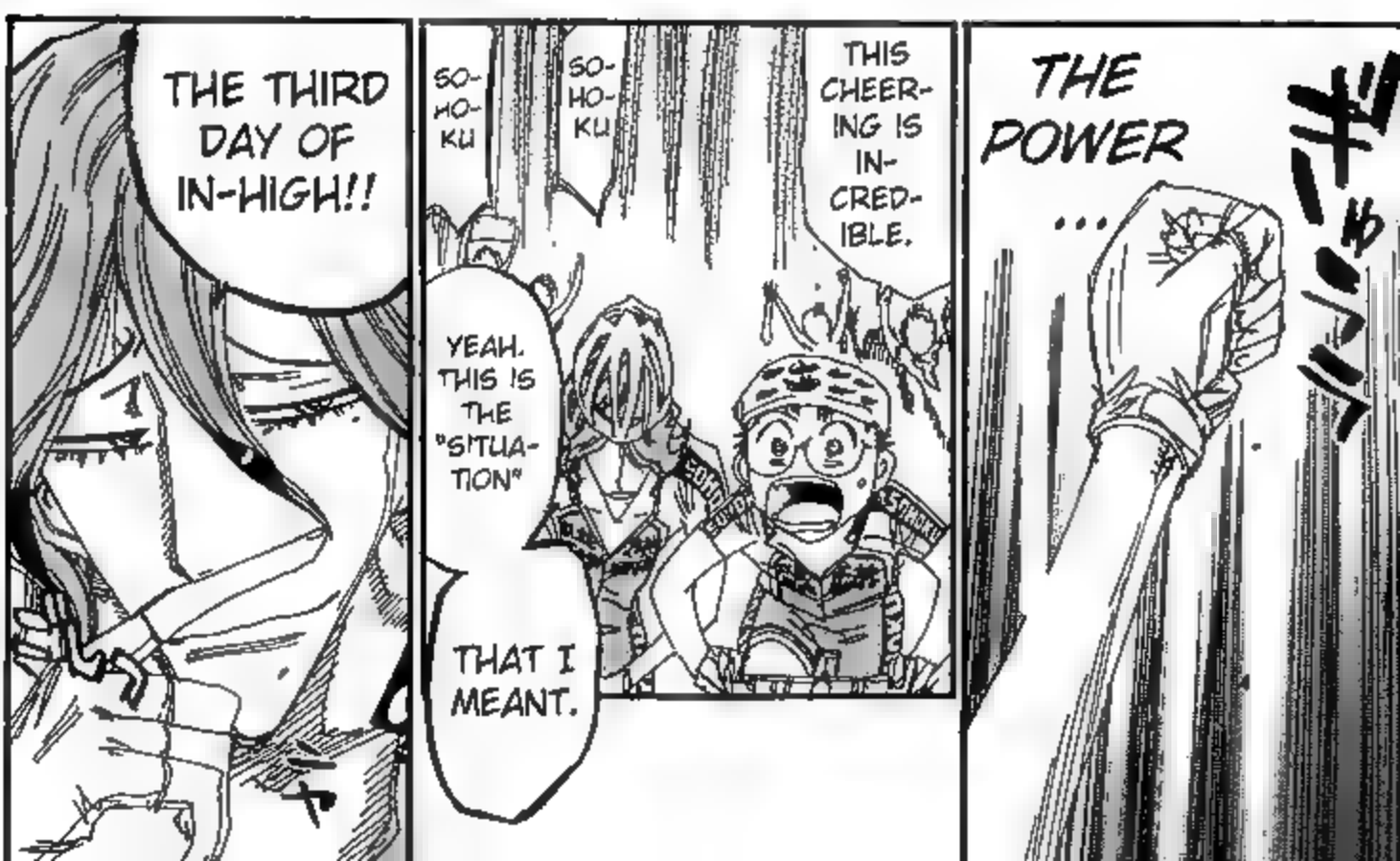
SO-HO-KU
SO-HO-KU
WHEN YER ON A BIKE, YA GOTTA BE FLASHY!!
KEEP CHEER-ING!!
SO-HO-KU
SO-HO-KU
KEEP CHEER-ING!!

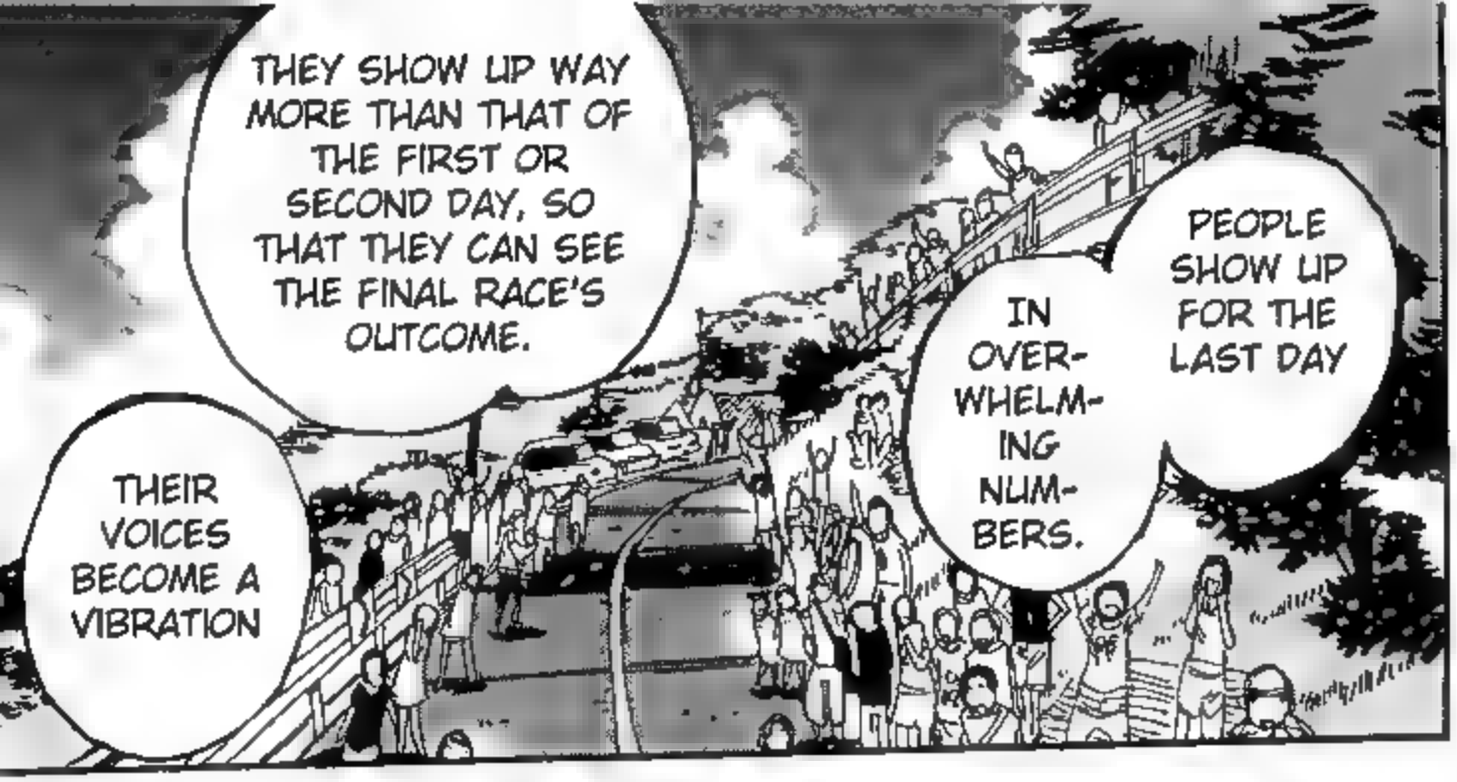

LIFE AIN'T FUN IF IT AIN'T FLASHY !!
WHEN YA DROP OUT MIDWAY, GO OUT WITH A BANG!!
WHEN YA WIN, DO IT WITH A BANG !!

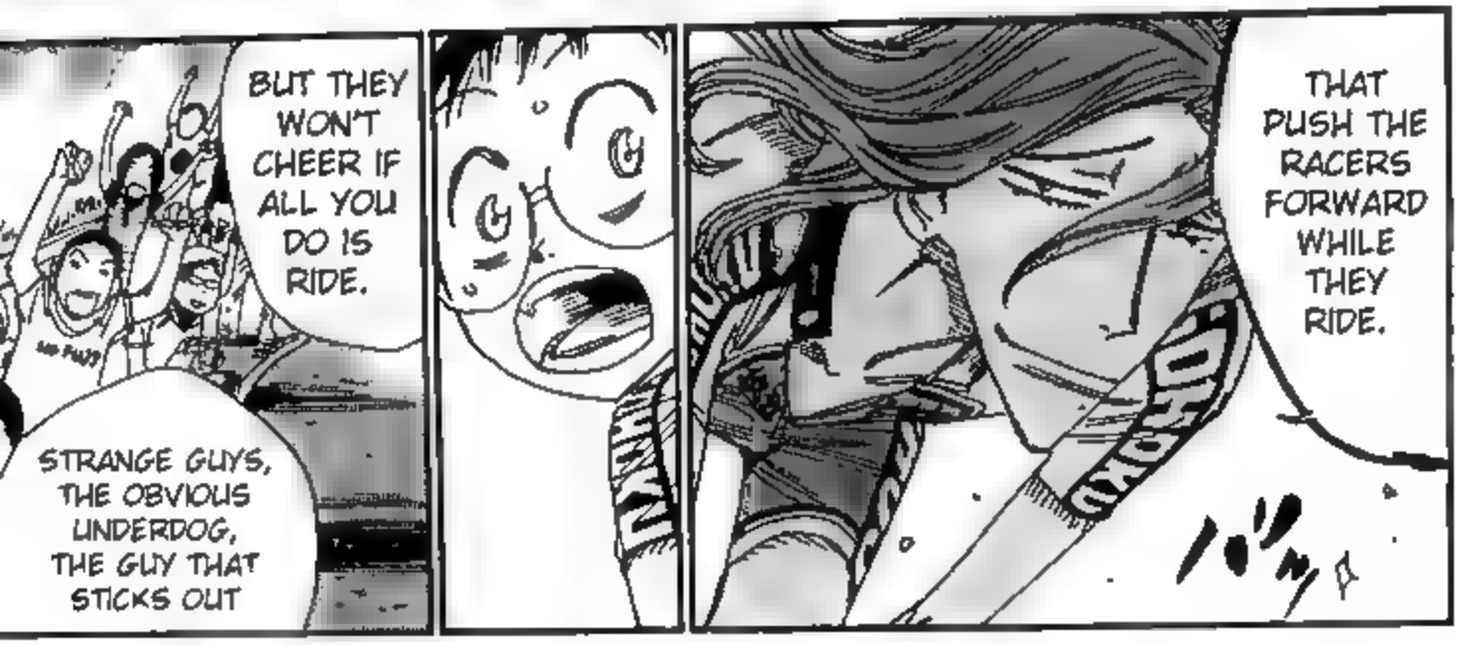

SO-HO-KU !!
SO-HO-KU
SO-HO-KU
NA-RU-KO SHOU-KICHI !!
SO-HO-KU !!
ARE WHAT FUEL ME !!
10
SO-HO-KU
SO-HO-KU
RED-HEAD !!
SO-HOKU NARU-KOOOOOO!!
SO-HO-KU
SO-HO-KU
KEEP CHEER-ING!!
ALL OF THOSE CHEERS

NA-
RU-
KO...
YOU...
SO-
HO-
KU
SO-
HO-
KU
SO-
HO-
KU
SO-
HO-
KU


I CAN FEEL IT SURGING UP...
WHAT... THE PRESSURE...
THE CROWD'S CHEERING IS RESOUNDING INSIDE ME!!

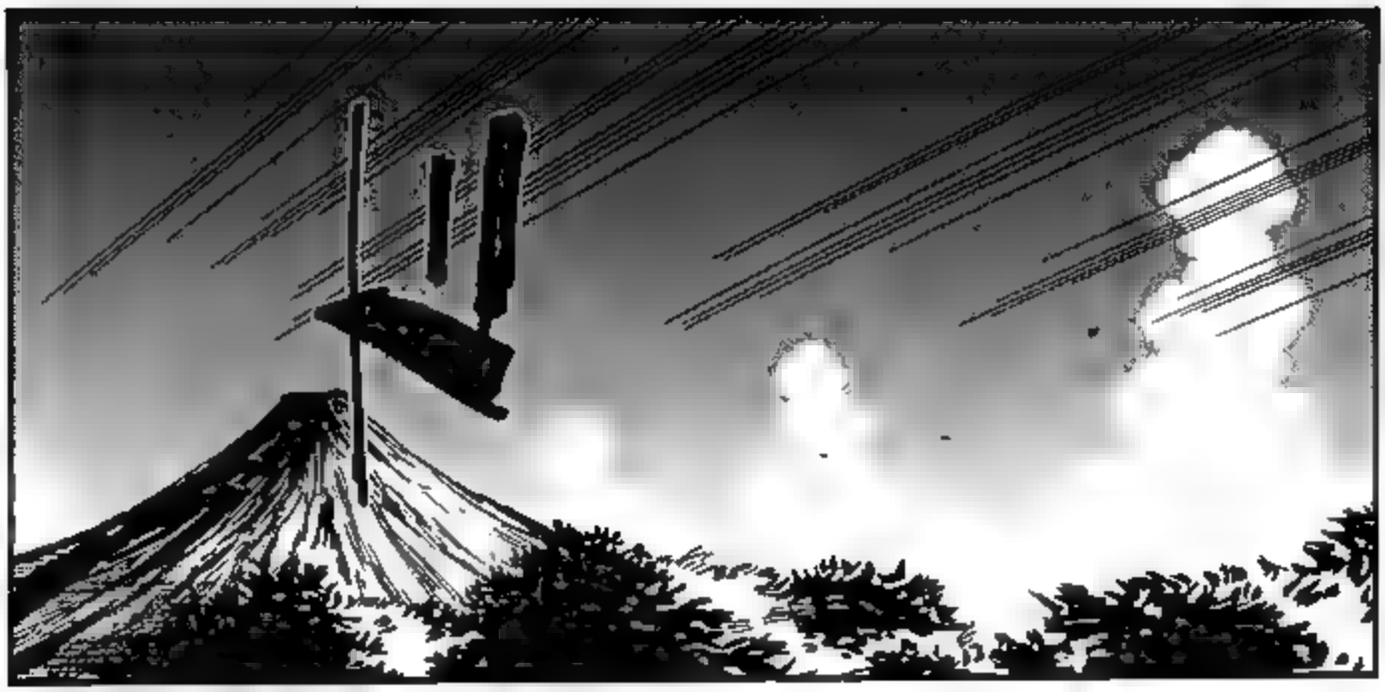

THE THIRD DAY OF IN-HIGH!!
SO-
HO-
KU
SO-
HO-
KU
THIS CHEERING IS INCREDIBLE.
YEAH. THIS IS THE "SITUATION" THAT I MEANT.
THE POWER
...

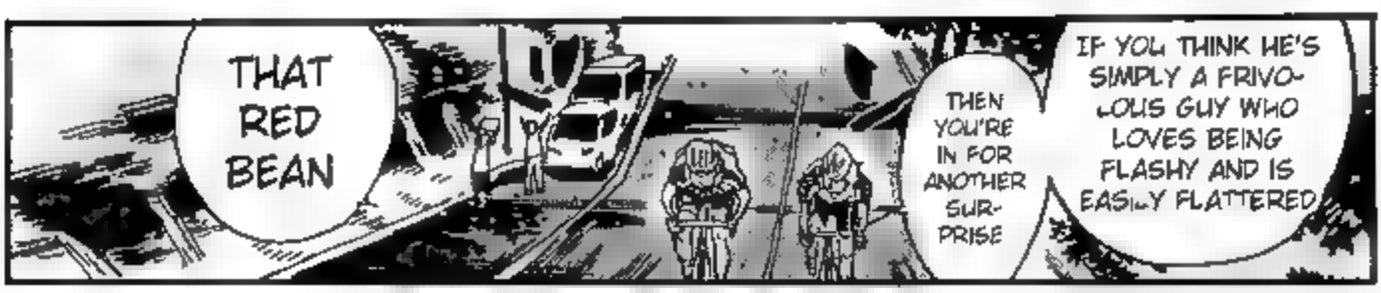

THEY SHOW UP WAY MORE THAN THAT OF THE FIRST OR SECOND DAY, SO THAT THEY CAN SEE THE FINAL RACE'S OUTCOME.
PEOPLE SHOW UP FOR THE LAST DAY
IN OVER-WHELM-ING NUM-BERS.
THEIR VOICES BECOME A VIBRATION


BUT THEY WON'T CHEER IF ALL YOU DO IS RIDE.
STRANGE GUYS, THE OBVIOUS UNDERDOG, THE GUY THAT STICKS OUT
THAT PUSH THE RACERS FORWARD WHILE THEY RIDE.

AND HE'S PERFECT FOR THIS SITUATION.
NARUKO SHOU-KICHI, YOU....
THOSE ARE THE SORT OF GUYS THEY SUPPORT!!
OR THE GUY ON A FLASHY BIKE, PUTTING ON A SHOW AND CLIMBING EVEN THOUGH HE'S A SPRINTER.
SOHOKU
174

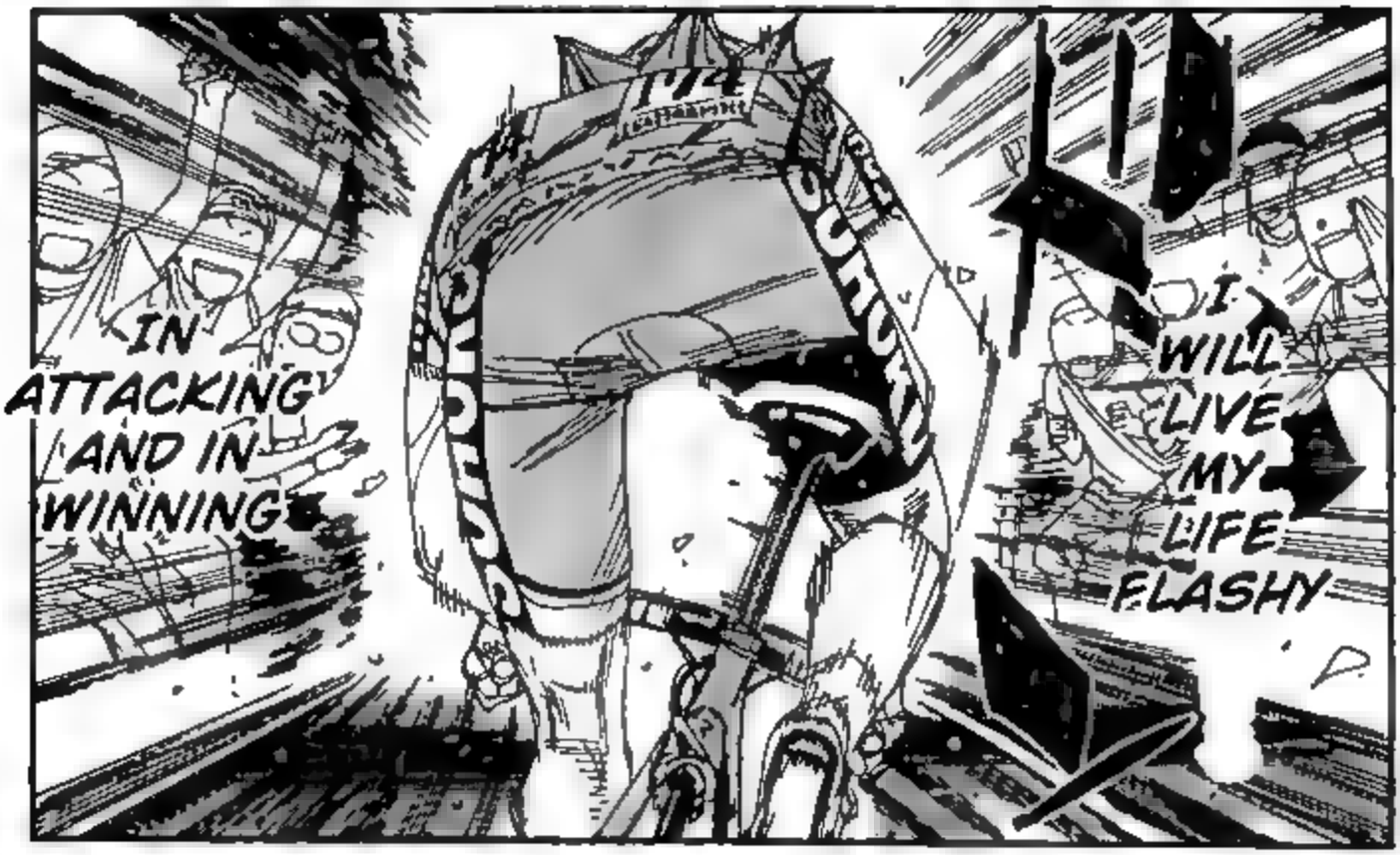
ORYAAAH
TAKE A GOOD SHOT OF IT WITH YER CAMERAS!
SO-HO-KU
SO-HO-KU
I CALL THIS THE SUPER-SURPRISE NARUKO SPECIAL ATTACK!
THE FLASHY SWAGGER CLIMB!!
SO-HO-KU !!
HE'S FAST !!
THAT RED GUY KEEPS CLIMBING DESPITE THE IN-CLINE!!
I'M NARUKO SHOU-KICHI!!
LOOK!! LOOK!! WATCH ME!!
LOVE BEING FLASHY SO MUCH, IT'S ALMOST INSANE!!
SO-HO-KU !!
WHAT FLN!
THAT GUY'S AWE-SOME!
SO-HO-KU !!
NARUKO !!

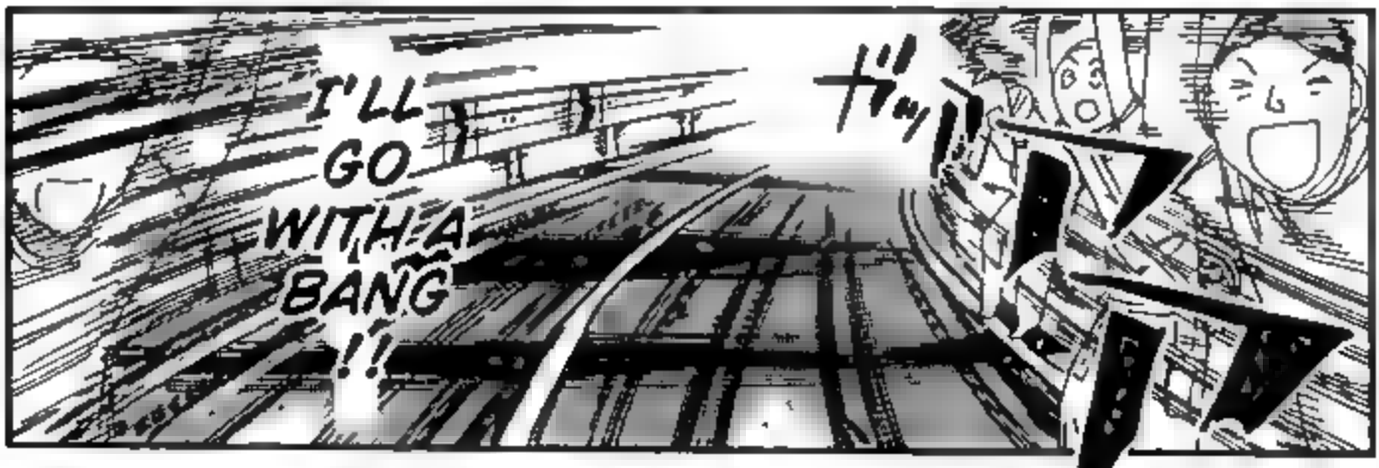



THAT RED BEAN
THEN YOU'RE IN FOR ANOTHER SURPRISE
IF YOU THINK HE'S SIMPLY A FRIVOLOUS GUY WHO LOVES BEING FLASHY AND IS EASILY FLATTERED

*KANSAI SPIRIT

RIDE.193 THE UNVEILING!!



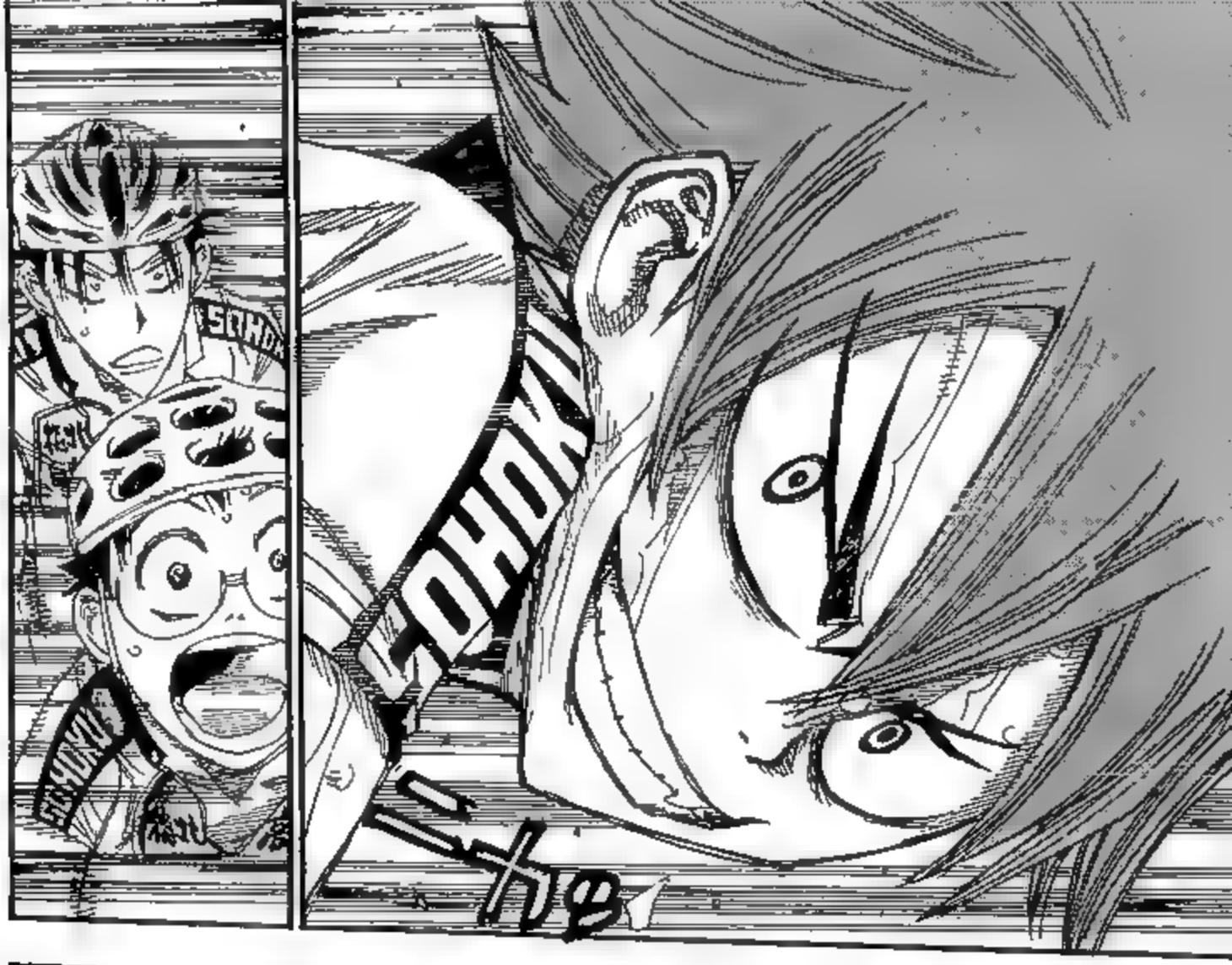


SO-HO-KU-UU-UU!
SOHOKU IS AWESOME!!
CHECK OUT THAT RED-HEAD!
SO-HO-KU-UU-UU
I-IT'S LIKE A FESTIVAL, ISN'T IT?!
FIRING UP THE CROWD ...
W-WOW, NARUKO-KUN IS...
IMAIZUMI-KUN!!
"SWAGGER CLIMB"
BUT
WILL HE BE OKAY ...?
...
HIS RIDING IS PRETTY INCREDIBLE, BUT...
RIDE.193
THE UNVEILING!!

THE GENIUS, NARUKO SHOU-KICHI!!
SO-HO-KU-UU-UU
ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE, LET'S HEAR THAT SOHOKU CHEER!
ONE, TWO ...

NARU-KO IS A SPRIN-TER.
IF NARUKO KEEPS THIS UP
HE'LL LOSE SPEED.
EH
EH
CLIMBING AT FULL SPEED WHILE RIDING ONLY ON MOMENTUM WON'T LAST FOR LONG!!
ORY AAA HHH DOY-AAA AH-HHH

THE NEXT TIME HE SITS DOWN ON HIS SADDLE
HIS LEGS ARE GOING THROUGH ABUSE RIGHT NOW FROM DANCING.
DO-YAAA-AAA-AHHH !!
ハア
NA-RU-KO-OO-OO !!
RED-HEAD !!
TO TAKE A REST, THAT WILL BE...
NA-RU-KO-OO !!
ハアッ
THE LAST TIME HE GETS BACK UP!!
NA-RU-KO-KUN !!
ハッ ハッ ハッ ハアッ
ドロ
JUNZAN
JUNOKU
176


KA
KA
KA
KA
KA
KA
KA
KA

KEEPING THE ACE UP MY SLEEVE UNTIL THIS VERY MOMENT IS WHAT MAKES IT MOST FLASHY!!
I WAS WAITIN' FOR THOSE WORDS, HOTSHOT
?!
WHAT IT MEANS TO LOVE BEING FLASHY
YA REALLY DON'T KNOW

IT'S ONLY WHEN EVERYONE'S IN DANGER THAT THE HERO
MAKES THE FINISH-ING BLOW!!
スルッ
スルッ
NO WAY! HE'S STILL--
FINI-SHING BLOW ?!
WHAT?! HE SLID UP TO THE TIP OF HIS SADDLE...
AND HIS ARMS ...?!
HERE IT COMES! NARUKO'S SPECIAL ATTACK--
AIN'T THAT RIGHT?!

WHAT D'YA WANNA TALK WITH ME ABOUT, OLD MAN?
OLD MAN!!
VIC
YOU'VE BEEN CHOSEN AS ONE OF THE SIX TO RACE AT INTER-HIGH.
AND AS A SPRINTER, LIKE ME.
AND STOP CALLING ME OLD MAN
NATU-RAL-LY!!
AS YOUR SENPAI IN SPRINT-ING.
HERE'S MY ADVICE TO YOU
LISTEN CARE-FULLY
YOU...
SO...
WHY D'YA LOOK ALL SERI-OUS?
...
...
TH S BE-LONGS TO ME NOW!!
I'M GONNA RIDE AND RIDE AND RIDE FULL-OUT!!
YA CAN'T TELL ME TO GIVE THIS BACK TO YA NOW, CUZ YER GONNA HAFTA DO IT OVER MY DEAD BODY!!

SHOULD CLIMB.
THE MOUNTAINS ARE A VITAL STAGE.
I WANT TO INCREASE AS MANY PEOPLE POSSIBLE ON THE TEAM WHO CAN CLIMB, EVEN IF IT'S BY ONLY ONE.
TIME DIFFERENCES BECOME APPARENT ON THE MOUNTAINS.
LET ME FINISH. THERE ARE A LOT OF FLATS AT IN-HIGH, BUT THERE ARE MOUNTAINS TOO!
THAT'S GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH SPRINTING!! AND WHAT KINDA VAGUE ADVICE IS THAT?!
YOU'RE THE BEAN.
AAA AAR GH ?!
I'M THE HEAVY TANK.
NO, IT HAS TO BE YOU. YOUR BODY WEIGHT AFFECTS YOUR SPEED IN CLIMBING.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU CLIMB?
I'LL GO PRACTICE SPRINTING IN THE MEANTIME.

I'LL KILL YA!!
WHO ARE YA CALLIN' A BEAN?!
HOGGING ALL THE GOOD EXAMPLES FOR YER-SELF!
HOLD IT, WAIT!! CALM DOWN!
DON'T THROW BOTTLES AT ME!
S-WORKS
YES.
ABOUT AS SMALL AS A BEAN.
DO I LOOK LIKE THAT SORT OF SMALL-MINDED GUY TO YOU?!
I TOLD YOU IT WAS ADVICE!
GASP
YER SCARED THAT I'M GONNA TAKE THE TITLE OF FASTEST FROM YA, SO YER MAKIN' ME PRACTICE CLIMBING, IS THAT IT?!
SO THAT YA GET TO PULL AHEAD WHILE I'M BUSY CLIMBING?!
AS THE SUPER-FLASHY, SUPER-SPEEDY NARUKO SHOU-KICHI
I'M GONNA MAKE MY SPECT-ACULAR DEBUT
SO DON'T GET IN MY WAY, YA HEAR?
WHAT IS THIS, SOME KIND OF COMEDY ACT, .?
OW! OW!
YOU COME OVER HERE AND GIMME YOUR HEAD, GODDAMNIT!
AT IN-HIGH,
I AIN'T GONNA PRACTICE CLIMB-ING!

WELL, I JUST THOUGHT THAT A SPRINT-ER
WHO CAN ALSO CLIMB
WOULD BE PRETTY FLASHY.
*STOP DEAD
HE MAY EVEN STAND OUT...
*SHAKING
IF A GUY EVER DID THAT AT IN-HIGH
THE CROWD WOULD GO NUTS.
"BUT HE CAN ALSO CLIMB," THEY'LL SAY.
"NOT ONLY IS HE FAST ON THE FLATS"

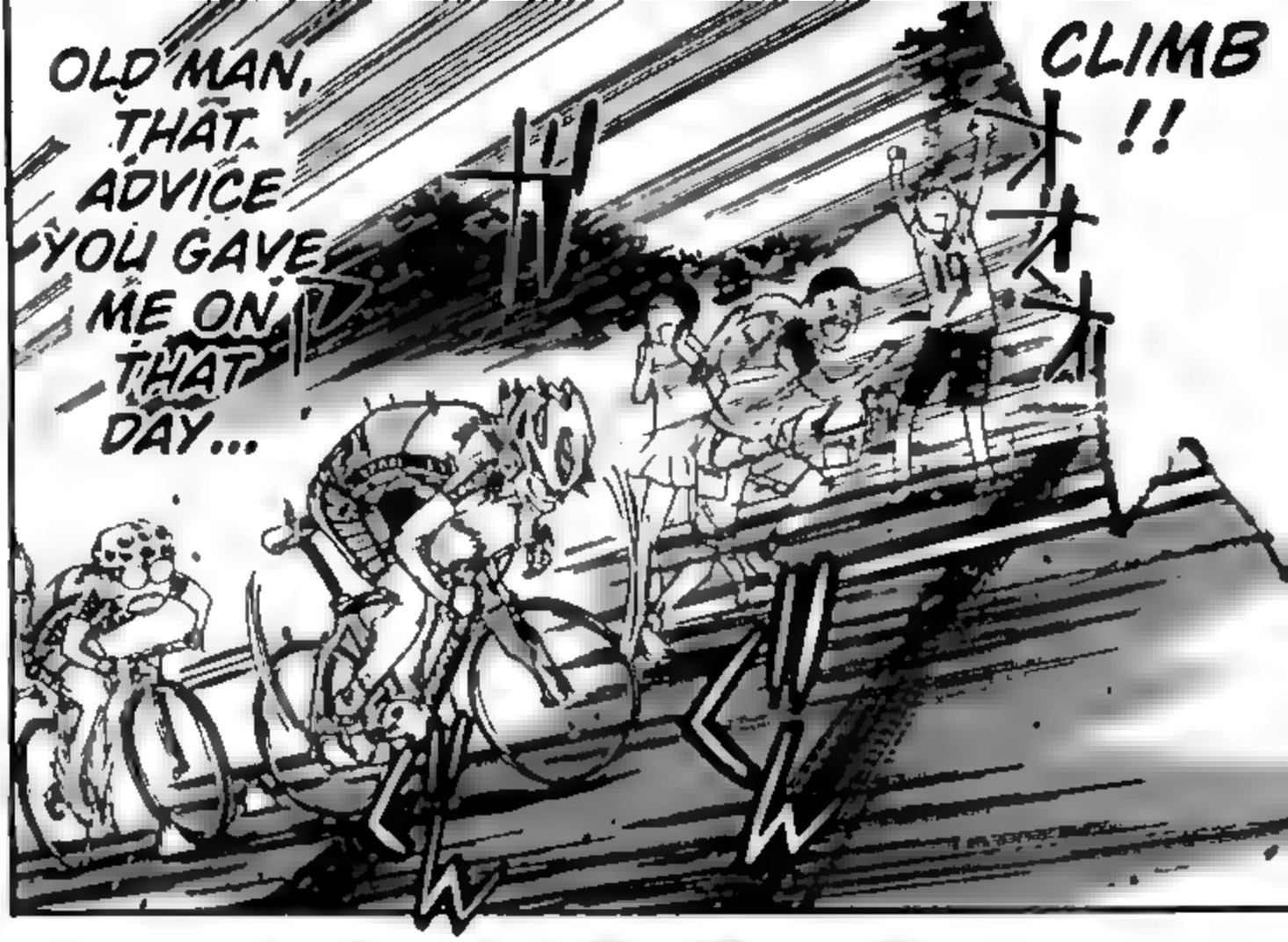
WHAT DO YOU THINK, NARUKO?
ニヤリ
ワクワク
THAT WAS SO OBVI-OUS.
TCH.
ALMOST HAD HIM.
I'M NEVER GONNA PRACTICE CLIMBING, YA GOT THAT?!
BYE!
THAT WAS CLOSE!
I ALMOST PLAYED RIGHT INTO YER HANDS!
NO NO NO NO
WAIT !!
AM I HERE AT THE FOOT OF MINEGAYAMA THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING?!
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, SO WHY
30
SO

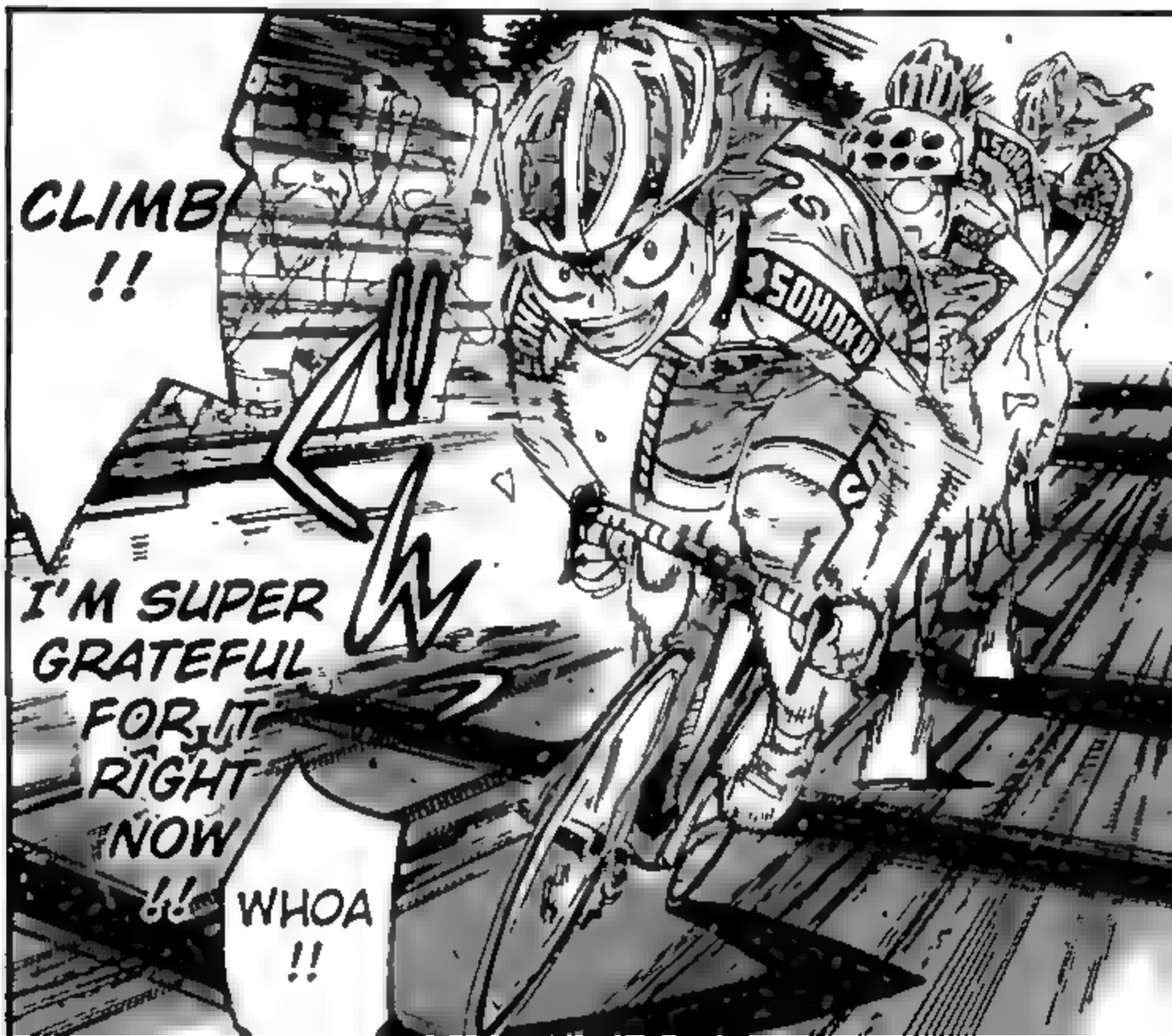
I'M JUST DOIN' THIS FOR THE TEAM.
THAT'S RIGHT
THE OLD MAN'S GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH THIS.
I CAN'T PUT ALL OF MY ENERGY INTO DANCING.
I CAN'T CONSTANTLY PEDAL THE WAY ONODA-KUN DOES ON AN UPHILL.
MY SPRINT CLIMB HAS ITS LIMITS.
WHAT DO I DO...
IF I SIT DOWN WHILE PEDAL-ING...
MY SPEED DROPS INSTANTLY.
THAT WON'T WORK.
SINCE I'M DOING THIS BEFORE OFFICIAL PRACTICE
I'M SUPER TIRED.
NARU-KO!!
WHAT?! NARUKO, YOU UNDER-STOOD?!
IT'S A DIFFICULT PROBLEM TOO!
OH MY GOD, I GOT IT!
SO YOU ARE LISTENING IN CLASS AFTER ALL! I'M PLEASED!!
WHAT ELSE IS THERE THAT I CAN USE BE-SIDES MY LEGS?
HIPS...
NECK...

CAN I GO RIDE MY BIKE NOW?
WHY?!
THIS IS IT!!
THIS WILL WORK !!
I JUST HAVE TO LET MY STRENGTHS AS A SPRINTER
WORK FOR ME!!
HOLY CRAP, I KNEW IT!
I'M A GENIUS !!
PINARELLO
THE TIRES
ON HIS PINARELLO LOOK REALLY WORN DOWN
SO HE DOES LISTEN.

HE'S FAST!!
BUT ...
WHAT'S WITH THAT WEIRD FORM?
NA-RU-KO ...!!
ALL THIS TIME?!
YOU'VE KEPT THIS HIDDEN

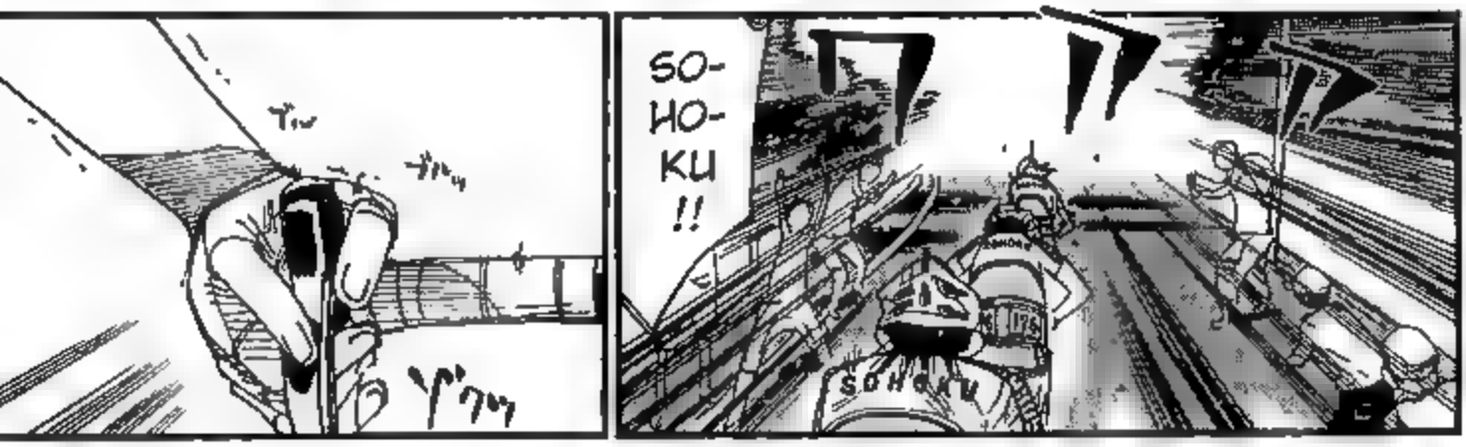
THE ARM-STRO-NG CLIMB !!
TAKEICHI SOHOKU
OH MY GOD, LOOK AT SO-HOKU'S NARUKO !!
HOLY SHIT, NA-RU-KO!
ORYAAAAA
HE'S CLIMB-ING WAY UP!!
AND WITH YOUR ARMS
BY SITTING ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SADDLE
YOU PRESERVE YOUR PHYSICAL STRENGTH
IN ORDER TO CHANGE THAT FORCE INTO A PROPUL-SION!!
YOU MOVE THEM SIDE TO SIDE AS IF YOU WERE SPRINTING TO THE GOAL
AS A SPRINTER WOULD
I USE THE ARMS
WATCH THIS! THIS WAS INVENTED BY THE NARUKO BUSI-NESS COMPANY
TO MAKE A STRONG CLIMB!!


OLD MAN, THAT ADVICE YOU GAVE ME ON THAT DAY...
CLIMB !!

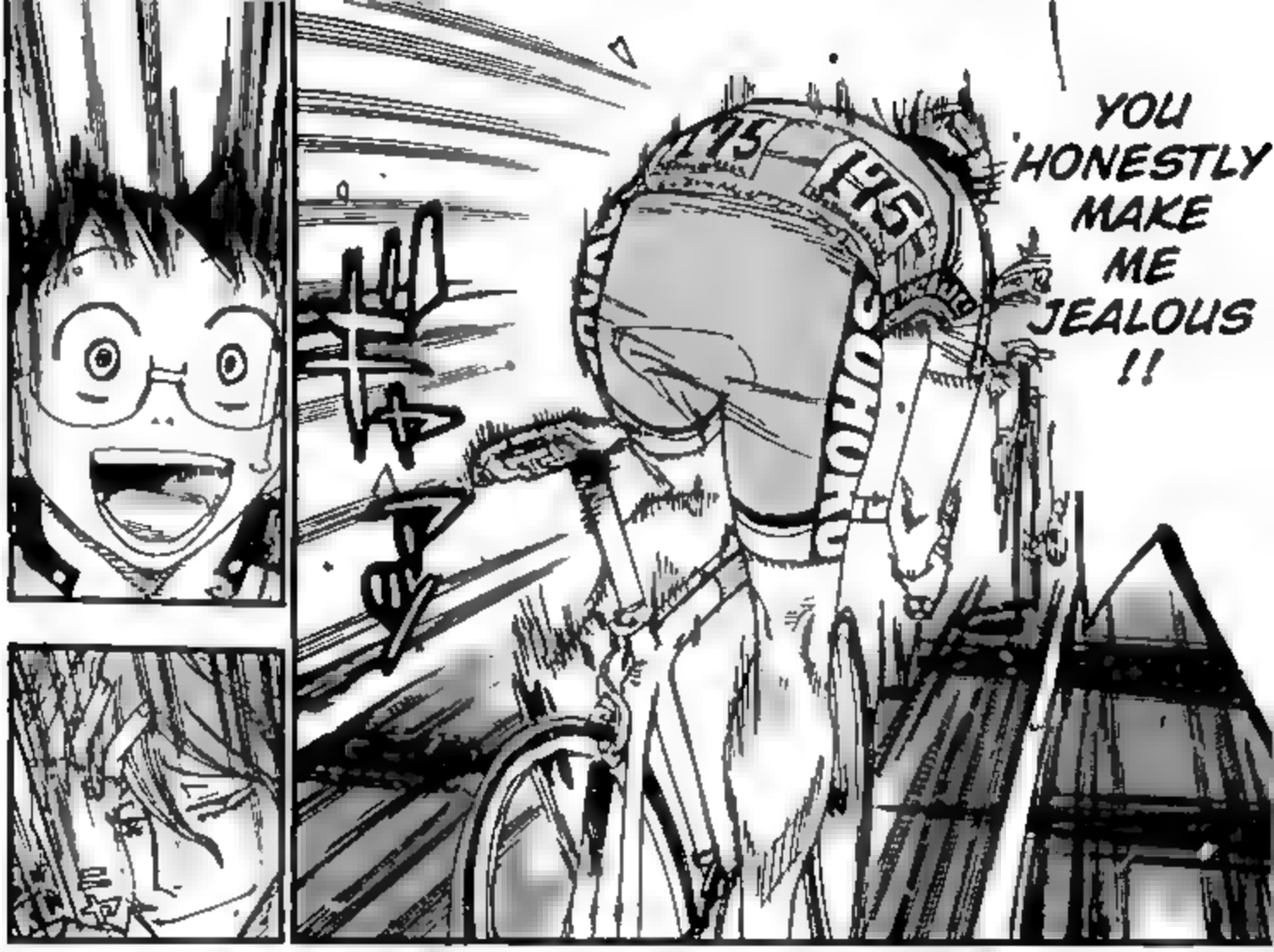

CLIMB !!
I'M SUPER GRATEFUL FOR IT RIGHT NOW !!
WHOA !!
SOHOKU

CARRIED DOWN BY THE WIND.
I CAN HEAR THE CROWD'S CHEERING

YOU REALLY ARE A NATURAL-BORN SPRINTER!!
A SERIOUS-MINDED, STRAIGHT-FORWARD GUY WHO LOVES BEING FLASHY.
SOHOKU


SO-HO-KU !!

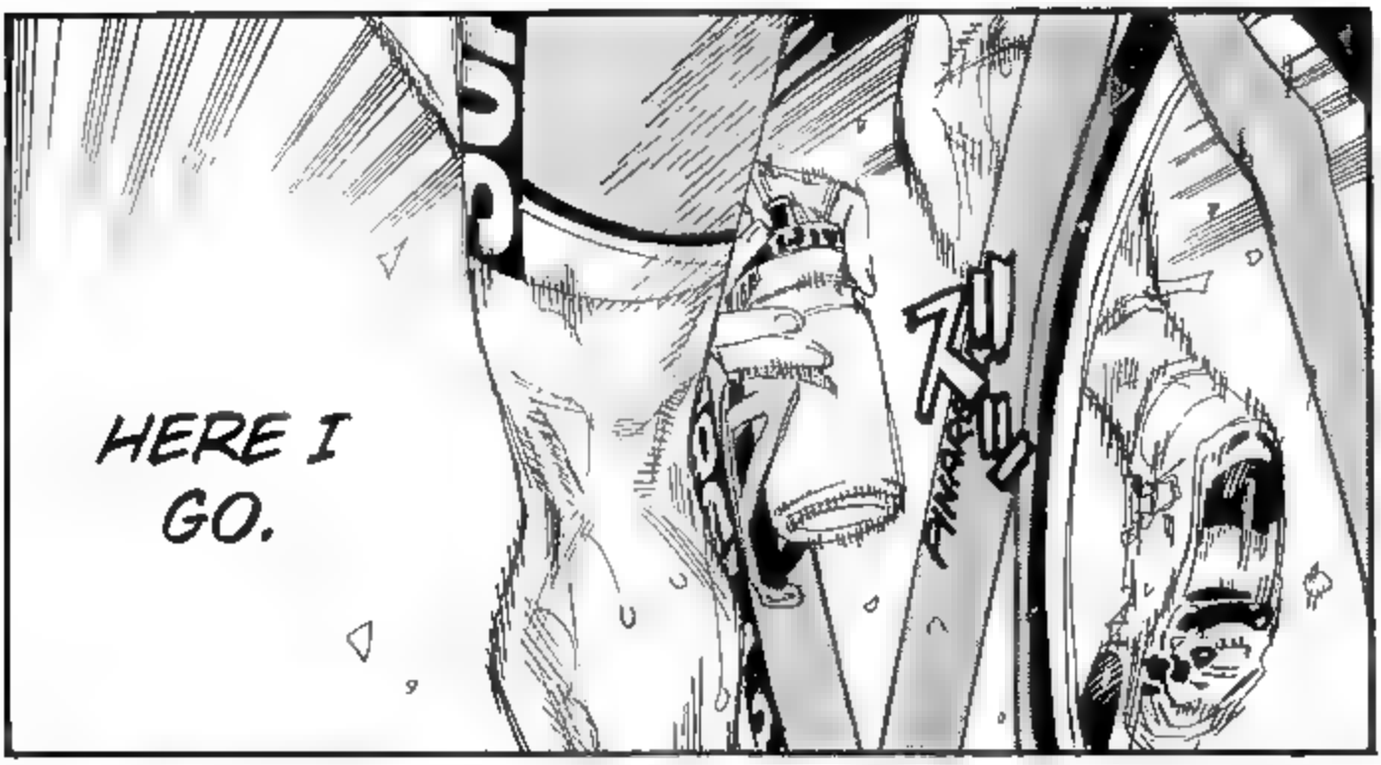
YOUR OWN TEAM-MATES SPELL-BOUND!!
NARUKO ...!! YOU EVEN PUT
高校


YOU HONESTLY MAKE ME JEALOUS !!

TO WRAP UP...
NOW THEN, IT'S ABOUT TIME
FOR THE NARU-KO PRO-DUC-TION

RIDE.194 OBSTINACY

NARUKO SHOKICHI


HERE I GO.

HERE I GO.
HERE I GO.

I WILL KEEP GOING
NO MATTER WHAT!!
UNTIL WE REACH THE HAKO-GAKU GROUP AT THE VERY FRONT

ORYAAAAA
THAT'S WHEN THE NARUKO PRODUC-TION COMES TO AN END!!
NARUKO
SOHOKU
NARUKO
SOHOKU
PINARELLO
あああ
HAKO-GAKU'S TOU-DOU-SAN
THAT GUY WITH THE BANGS
...
ハア
ハア
SORRY, BUT I
KAKAKA
SO-HO-KU
SO-HO-KU
THERE'S 20 KILO-METERS TO THE GOAL
I'M GONNA CATCH UP TO YA...
YOU'RE GONNA RIDE IT ALL THE WAY THROUGH, AREN'T YA?
NEVER INTENDED TO DO THAT FROM THE START!!
ハアッ

ALL ABOARD, GUYS!
I'VE GOT A ONE-WAY TICKET THAT'S NOT GOING THE FULL ROUTE!!
MAKI-SHIMA-SAN
HOT-SHOT
ONO-DA-KUN
GHOST
SOLDIERS
THE NARUKO EXPRESS TRAIN!!
YER ON BOARD THE FASTEST VEHICLE BOUND FOR HAKOGAKU

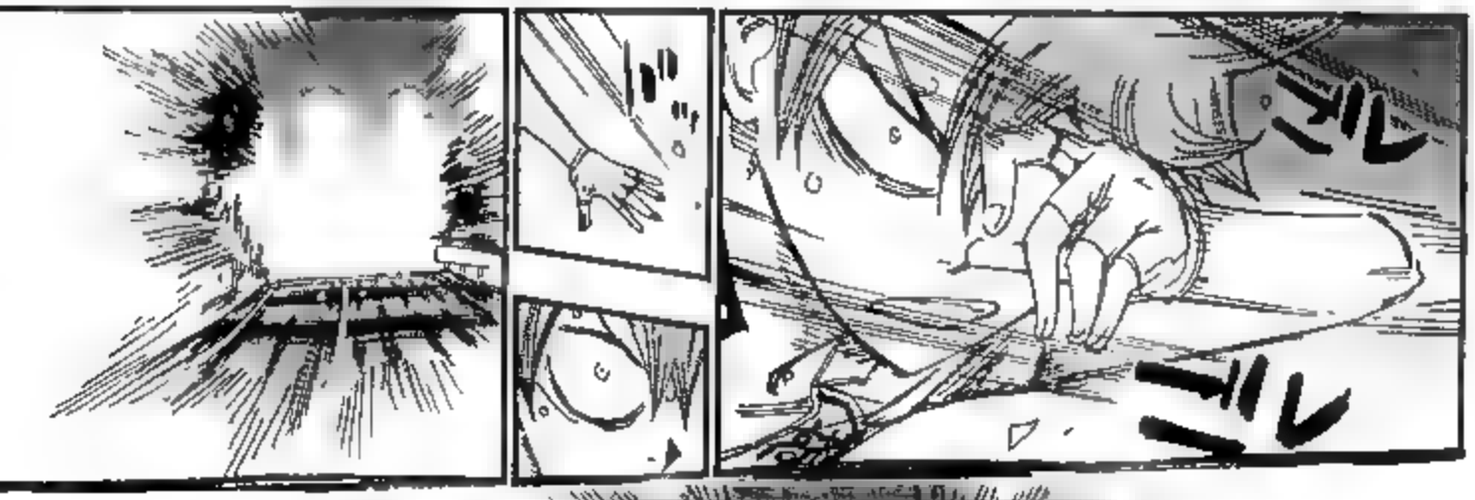
#10
DID YOU KNOW? RIGHT BEFORE A BODY RUNS OUT OF GAS
BANZAI
THAT'S WHEN IT'S AT ITS LIGHTEST AND FASTEST-!!
NA-RU-KO-KUN!!
HIS RIDING ...
IT'S STARTING TO LOSE ITS FORM...!!
THAT GUY!!

WE'RE SWITCH-ING! GET BACK, NARUKO
HE'S IN TROUB-LE!!
SWITCH WITH ME, NARU-KO-KUN
!
!
!!

AT ALL TIMES WHILE THE TRAIN IS MOVING!
SORRY SIRS, BUT KEEP YER HEAD AND ARMS INSIDE
THIS IS MY SEAT!
MEANS I'M AT THE HEAD OF THE TEAM!
BEING AT THE HEAD OF THE NARUKO EXPRESS
SO KEEP YERSELVES STRAPPED IN AND HANG ON TO YER HANDLES!!
DON'T BE STUBBORN ...?
I'M NARUKO SHOU-KICHI, REM-EMBER?
FALL BACK!!
FALL BACK!! REST!! WE'LL RO-TATE!!
DON'T BE STUBBORN, NARU-KO!!
WHO ARE YA TELLIN' THAT TO?
C'MON, HOT-SHOT

IF STUBBORN IS WHAT MAKES IT WORTH IT IN THE END, I'LL BE AS STUBBORN AS I GOTTA BE!!
"ONLY ONE PERSON WINS THE GOAL."
THE IMAIZUM HOTSHOT THAT I KNOW
THIS IS A RACE !!
NEVER MIND THAT, AREN'T YA BEIN' A LITTLE TOO NICE? D'D THE HEAT GO TO YER HEAD AGAIN, HOTSHOT?!
LOOK AT'CHA, WORRYIN' OVER MY BODY AND SUCH!!
IS MORE COLD THAN THAT!!

ハア
...THOUGH ACTUALLY
ハア
SHIT. THIS IS BAD.
ハア
ハア
ハア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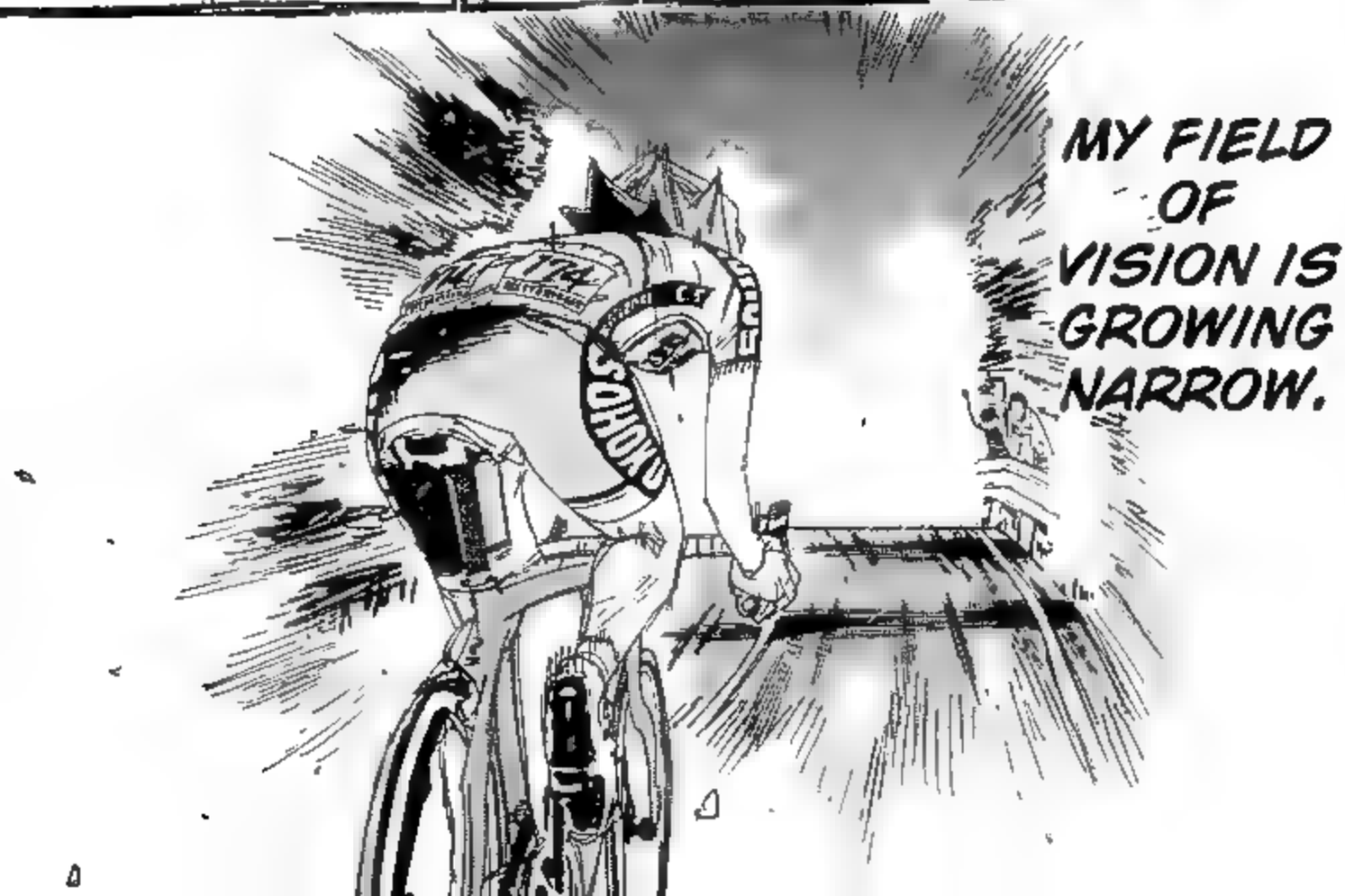
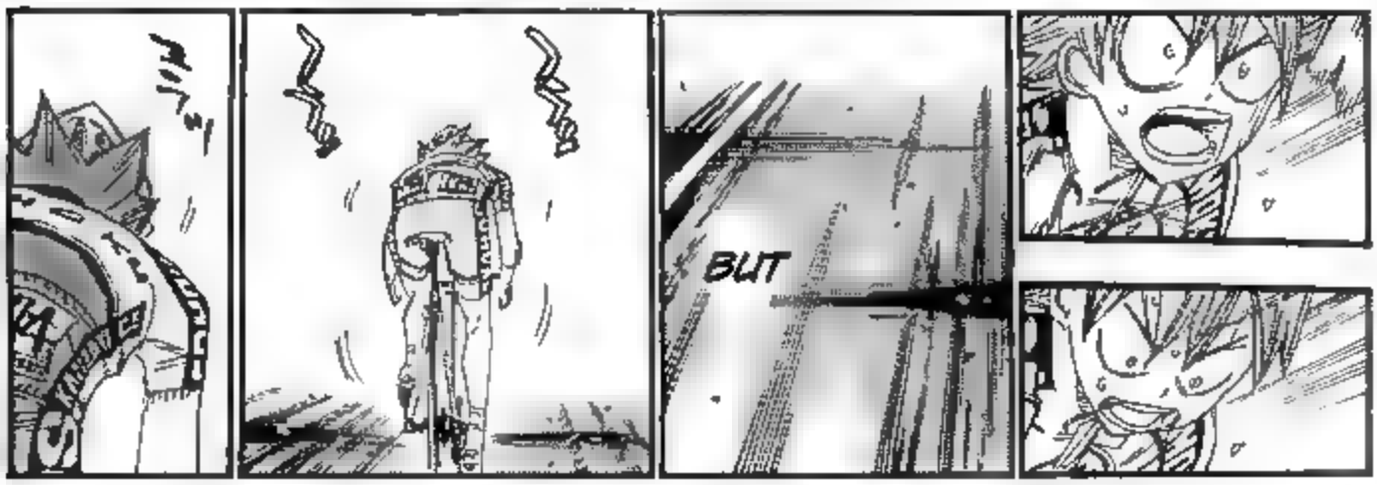

MY FIELD OF VISION IS GROWING NARROW.
SOHOU

THIS IS THAT THING THAT HAPPENS WHEN I'VE PUSHED MYSELF SO FAR THAT I'M NOT GETTIN' ENOUGH OXYGEN TO MY BRAIN, HUH?

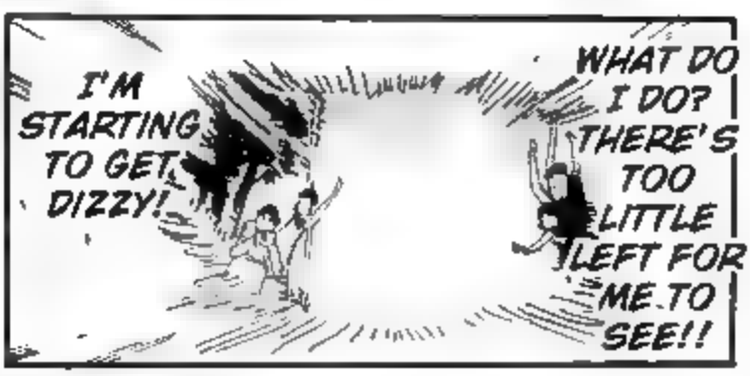

BUT

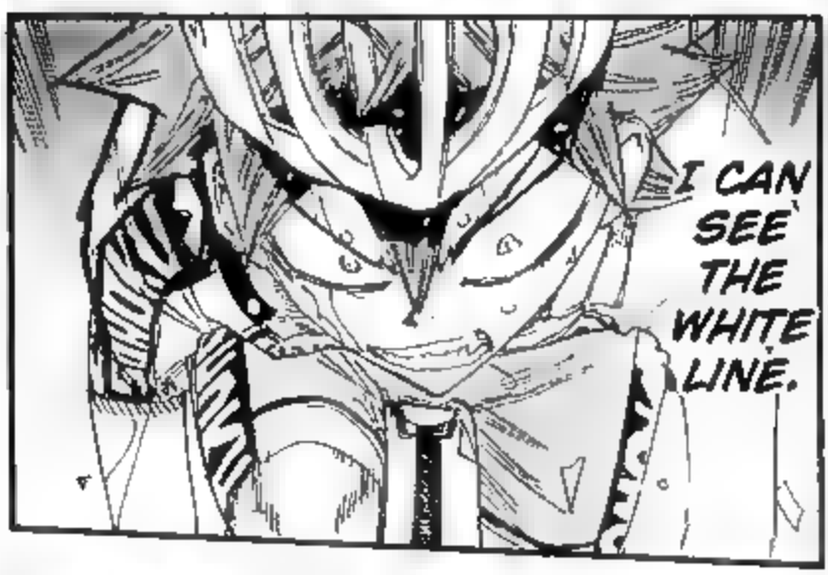
"TO KEEP GOING" IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO!!

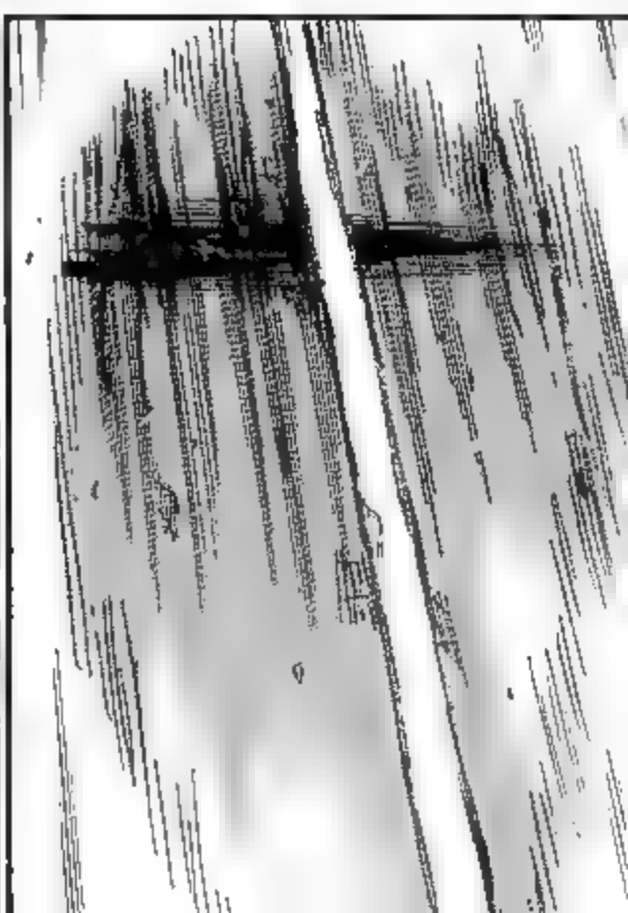
SUBARU
UWAH!
WHAT THE-
*WOBBLING
NARUKO -KUN!!
I JUST HIT SOME-THING.
THAT GUY--
HIS EYE-SIGHT!!

DAMN IT!

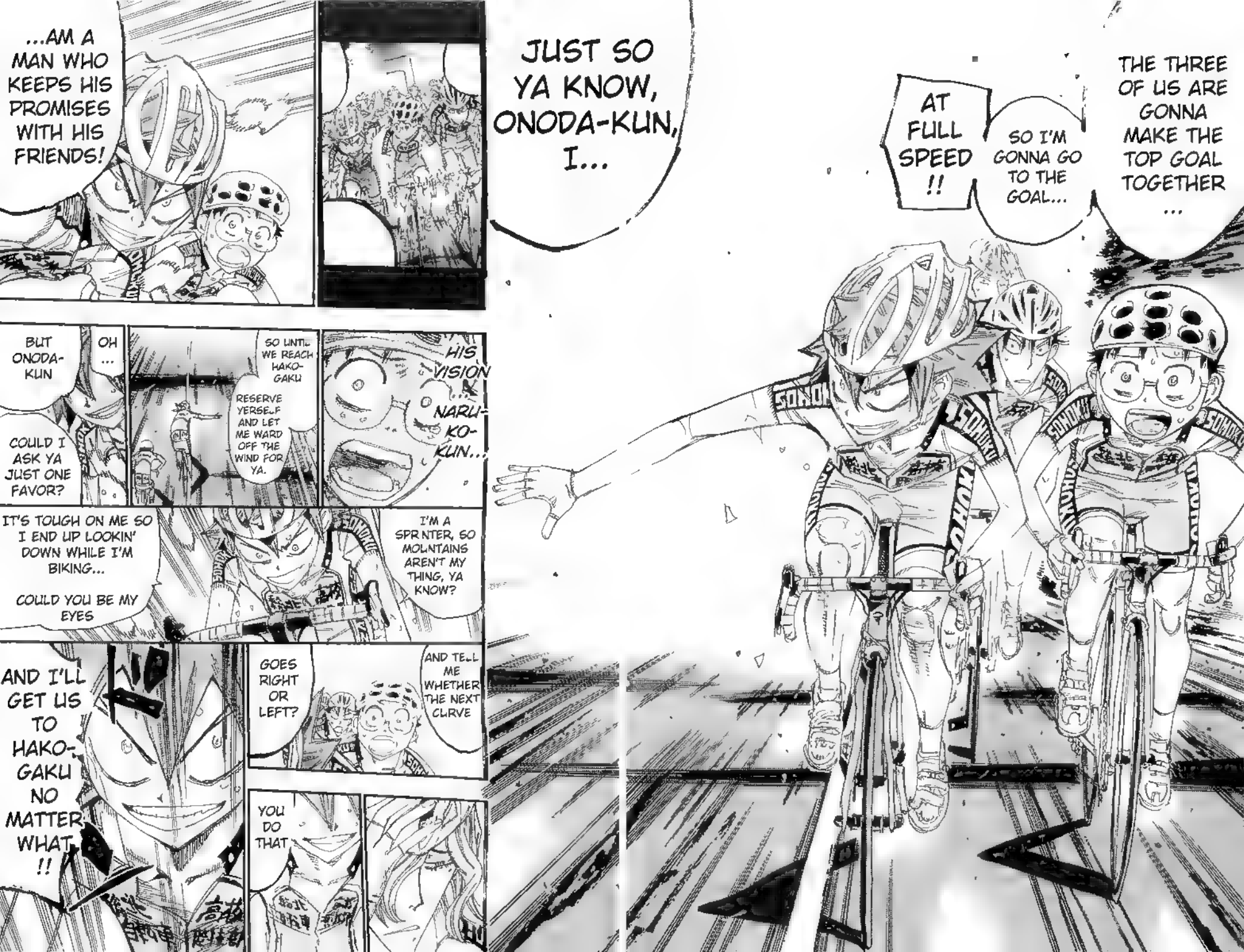
BUT MY LEGS
STILL MOVE.


I'M STARTING TO GET DIZZY!
WHAT DO I DO? THERE'S TOO LITTLE LEFT FOR ME TO SEE!!


I CAN SEE THE WHITE LINE.



TO REACH THE ENEMY UP FRONT!!
I JUST NEED TO FOLLOW THIS
I'LL PULL IN-STEAD!!
NARUKO-KUN!!
D'YA THINK I'M GONNA RETIRE? I PROMISED...
YOU AT THE BEGINNING, REMEMBER? THAT YOU, HOTSHOT, AND ME...
ONODA-KUN, DON'T BE STUPID
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH


...AM A MAN WHO KEEPS HIS PROMISES WITH HIS FRIENDS!
JUST SO YA KNOW, ONODA-KUN, I...
AT FULL SPEED !!
SO I'M GONNA GO TO THE GOAL...
THE THREE OF US ARE GONNA MAKE THE TOP GOAL TOGETHER ...
BUT ONODA-KUN
OH ...
COULD I ASK YA JUST ONE FAVOR?
SO UNTIL WE REACH HAKO-GAKU
RESERVE YERSELF AND LET ME WARD OFF THE WIND FOR YA.
HIS VISION ... NARU-KO-KUN...
IT'S TOUGH ON ME SO I END UP LOOKIN' DOWN WHILE I'M BIKING...
COULD YOU BE MY EYES
I'M A SPRINTER, SO MOUNTAINS AREN'T MY THING, YA KNOW?
AND I'LL GET US TO HAKO-GAKU NO MATTER WHAT !!
GOES RIGHT OR LEFT?
AND TELL ME WHETHER THE NEXT CURVE
YOU DO THAT
SOHOKU

A SLOW RIGHT !!

RAAAH
AFTER 50 METERS AHEAD, GO LEFT!!

ONO-S DA-KUN...!!
NOW GO STRAIGHT!!

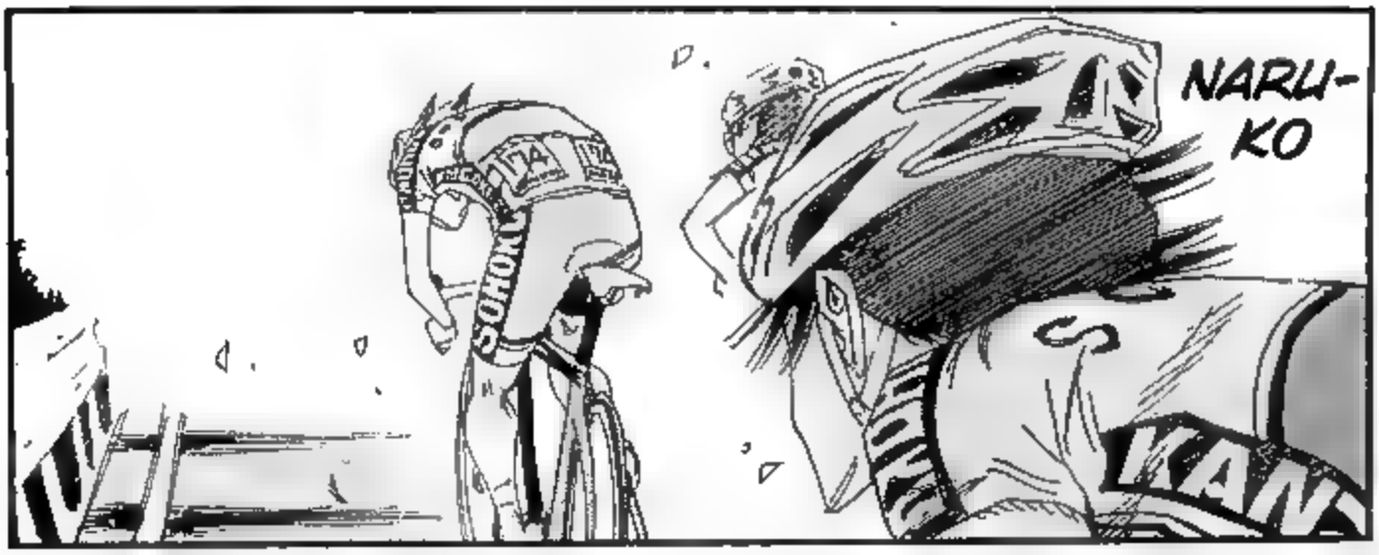
HE'S REALLY GROWN.
THINK-ING BACK ON IT...
WHAT DO I DO...
WHAT...
TURN RIGHT!!
I'M COUNT-ING ON YOU GUYS...
GIVE SO-HO-KU THE GOAL.
A WIDE CURVE GOING LEFT!
WE'RE HERE.
I CAN'T SEE IT
SOHO
BUT I CAN TELL.

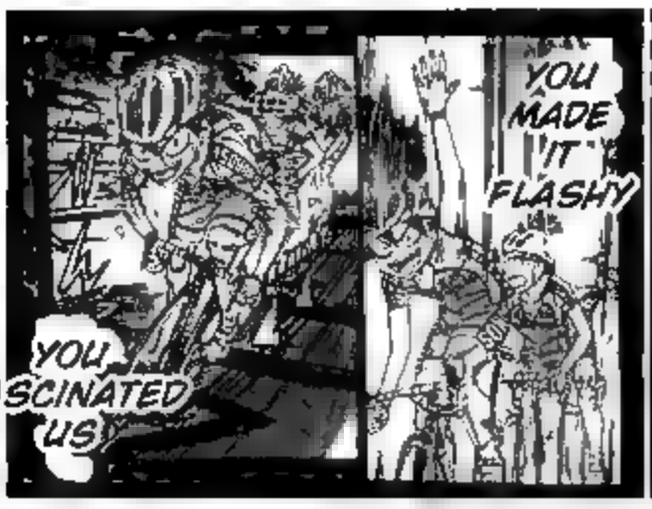
IT'S HAKO-NE ACAD-EMY!!
THE FRONT
THROUGH MY SKIN... JUST AHEAD OF THIS CURVE...
THEY'RE THERE!!
OH
I SEE THEM...
NARU-KO-KUN...
YER THERE! AREN'T YA!!

THOSE SURPRISED LOOKS OF YERS...
WISH I COULD'VE SEEN 'EM!!

RIDE:195
THE MAN WHO FULFILLED HIS DUTY
PINARELLO
I SEE THEM !!
NARUKO -KUN!!
HE REALLY DID IT
NARU-KO... CAUGHT UP TO THEM!!

RIDE.195 THE MAN WHO FULFILLED HIS DUTY


NARU-
KO
SOHOKU
KAN


YOU MADE IT FLASHY
YOU FASCINATED US

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A SPRINTER, YOU PULLED THE TEAM UPHILL
IN THE MOUN-TAINS

NARU-
KO
AND NOW YOU'VE BROUGHT US HERE TO HAKO-GAKU!!

174
I CAN SAY THIS
RIGHT NOW
FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART

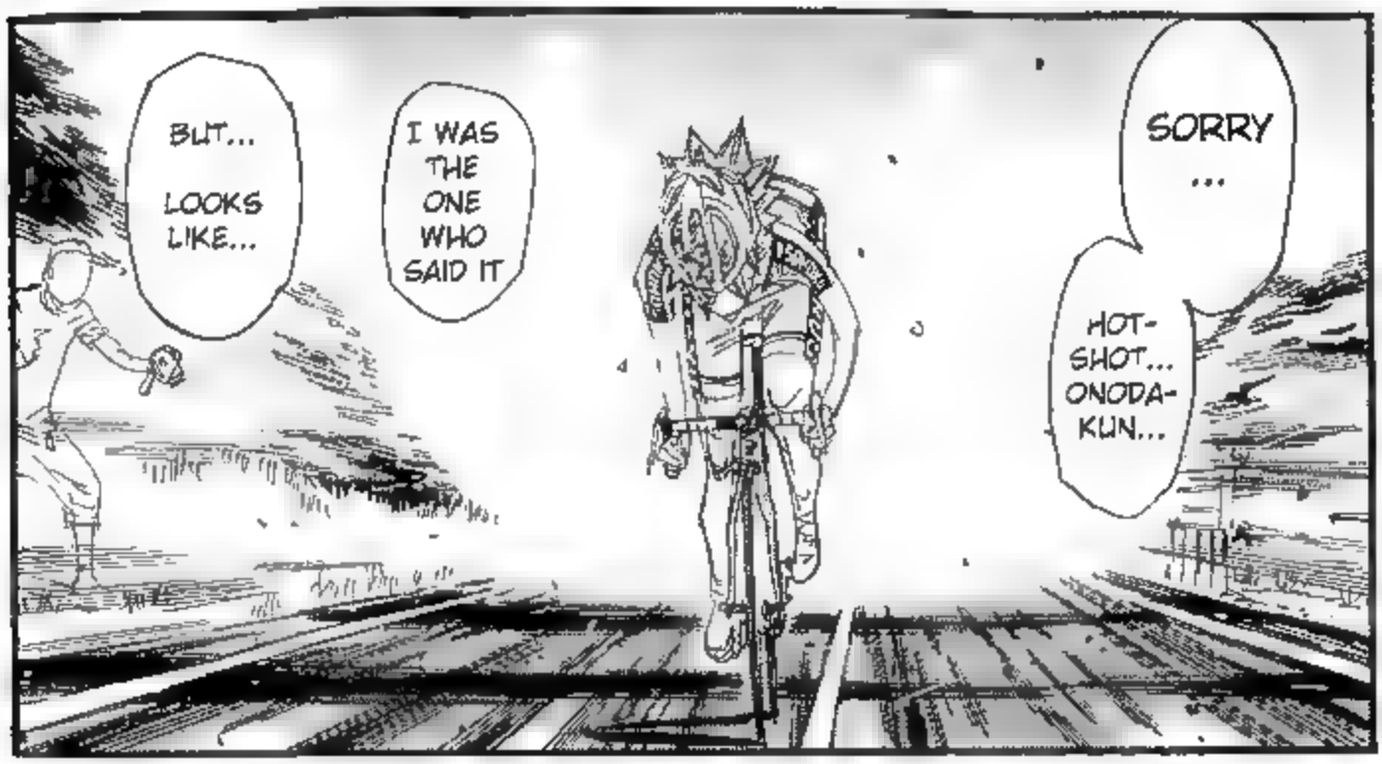
YOU ARE AMAZ-ING!!
SOHOKU
KANZAKI
174
176

SO YER THE IMAIZUMI-"KUN" THAT ONODA-KUN MENTIONED.
IF WE DON'T GO HELP HIM, WHO WILL?!
THAT'S YER OWN LOGIC !!
I'LL BE AS STUBBORN AS I GOTTA BE!!
NA
NARU-KO!!
NARU
KO... KUN

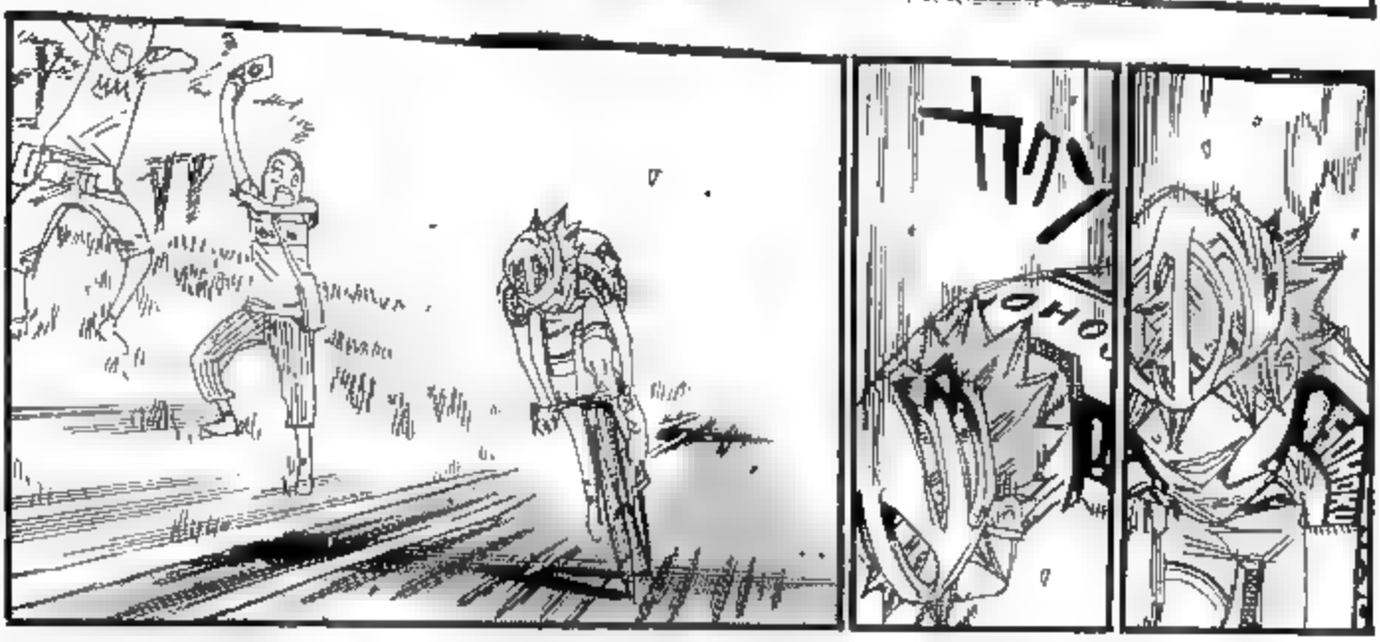
"IT'S THE TIME TO FIGHT."
COULD YOU CHARGE ME UP
WITH COUR-AGE? ONE LAST TIME!!
I ALWAYS GET A "D" IN GYM.
STUFF LIKE THAT DOESN'T MATTER IN BIKING.

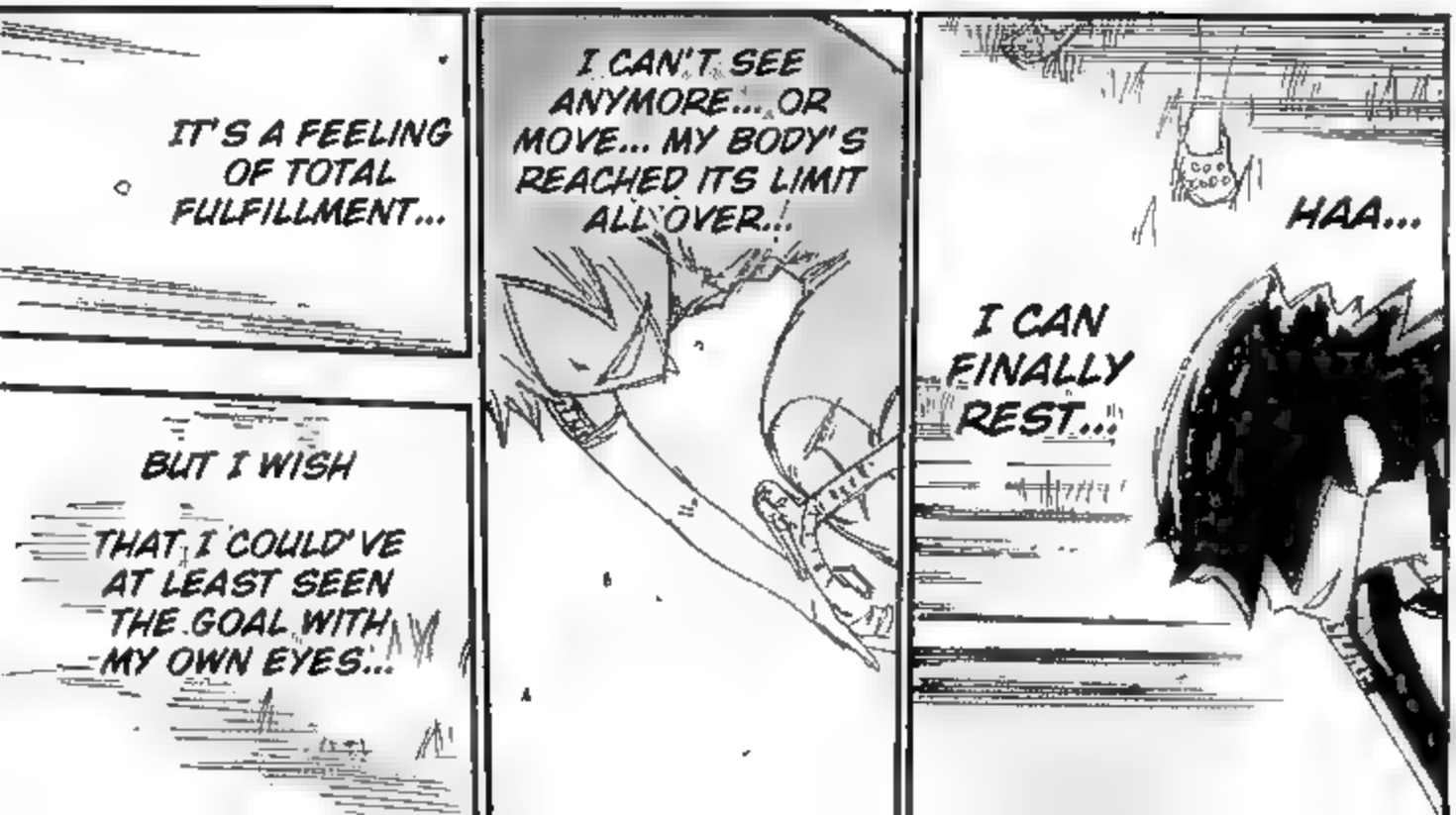
THREE DAYS OF RACING IS GONNA BE TOUGH
AND SUR-VIVE
BUT WE GOTTA MANAGE TO HANG IN THERE
YA KNOW
BUT
YA GOTTA HANG IN, ONODA-KUN
"THAT WAS REALLY FRICKING COOL, ONODA-KUN!!"

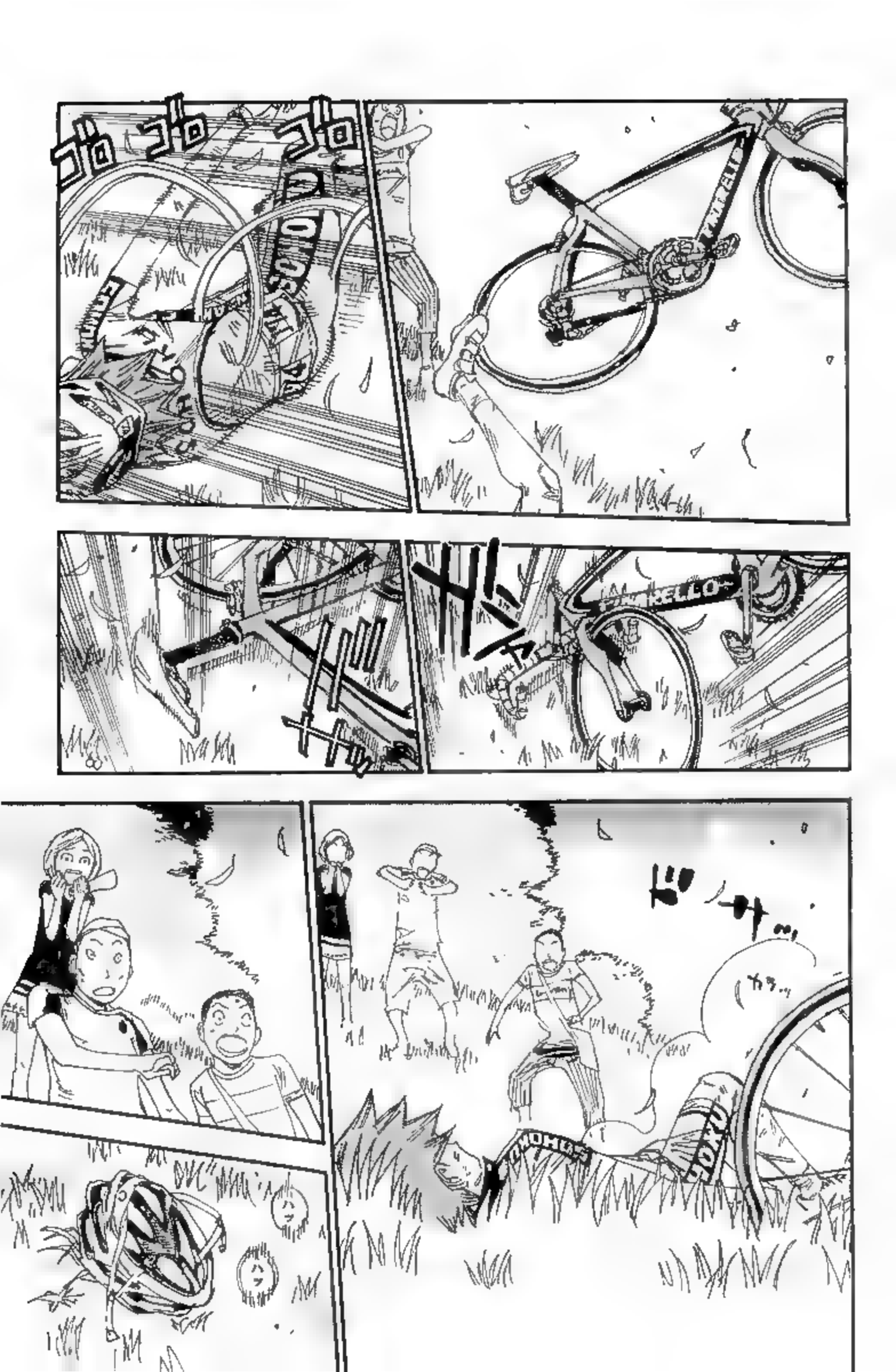
SHOULDER TO SHOULDER
I THINK IT WOULD BE GREAT IF THE THREE OF US LINED UP
SOHOKU
AND MADE THE TOP GOAL TOGETHER ON THE THIRD DAY.


BUT... LOOKS LIKE...
I WAS THE ONE WHO SAID IT
SORRY ...
HOT-SHOT... ONODA-KUN...

I WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP...
MY
PRO-MISE




IT'S A FEELING OF TOTAL FULFILLMENT...
BUT I WISH
THAT I COULD'VE AT LEAST SEEN THE GOAL WITH MY OWN EYES...
I CAN'T SEE ANYMORE... OR MOVE... MY BODY'S REACHED ITS LIMIT ALL OVER...
HAA...
I CAN FINALLY REST...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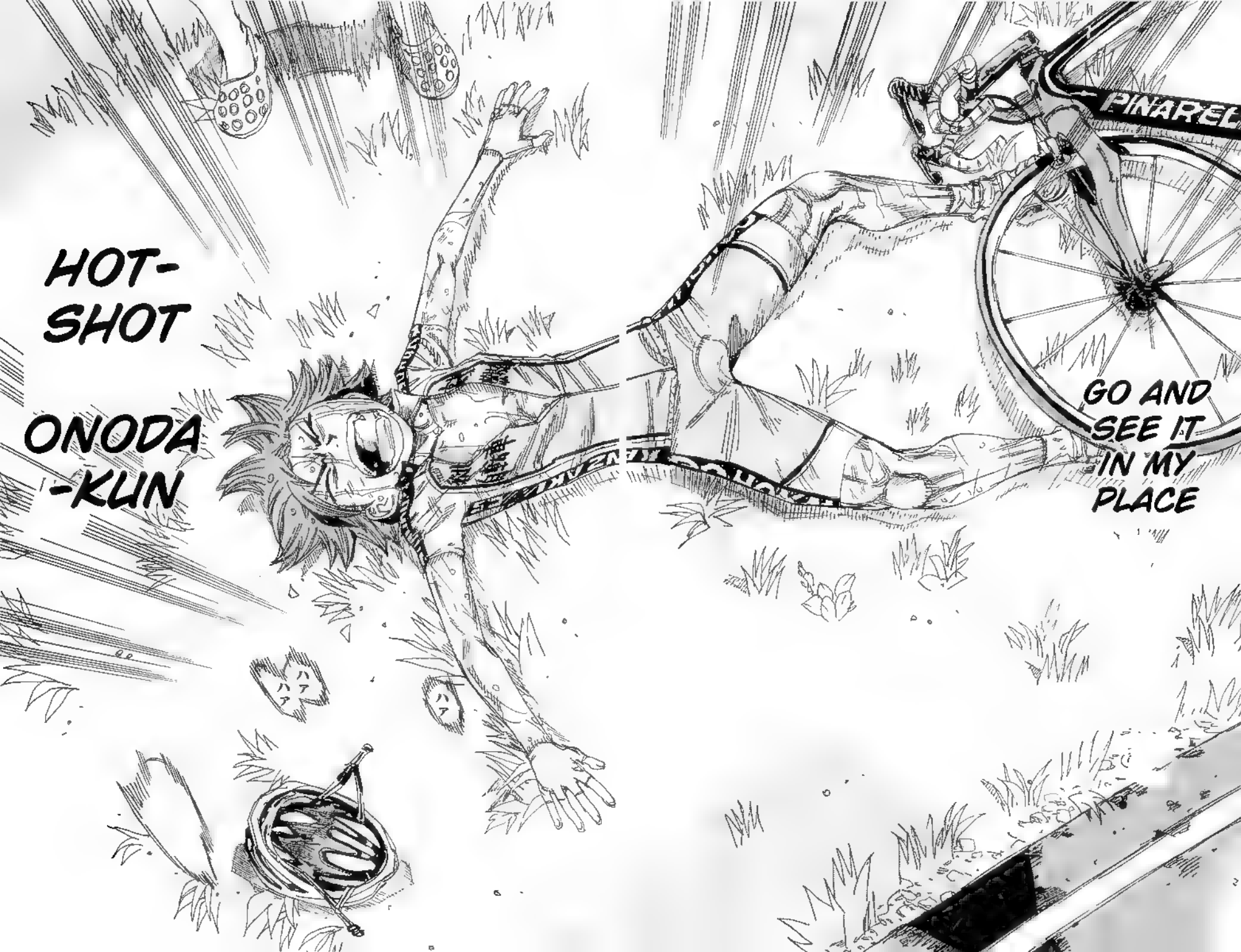

HOT-
SHOT
ONODA
-KUN
GO AND
SEE IT
IN MY
PLACE
ハア
ハア
ハア

176
176
DON'T LOOK BACK
GO...
SO-HO-KU...

LET'S GO, SAKA-MICHI !!
YEAH !!
NARU-KO...
THAT WAS MAGNI-FICENT !!
AAAAAH
OOOOH

NA-
RU-
KO-
KUN
!!
NA-
RU-
KO-
KUN
!!
NARU-
KO-
KUN!!
NARUKO
...!!
YOU PUT
ON TOO
MANY
AIRS.
YOU
IDIOT
IT WAS YOU
WHO WANTED
TO MAKE THAT
PIPE DREAM
OF A PROMISE
COME TRUE
MOST OF ALL!!
SO
I'LL
DO IT.

I WILL GET IT FOR YOU!
THE TOP GOAL!!
SO-HOKU...
I THOUGHT YOU HAD FALLEN FOR SURE THIS TIME, BUT YOU'VE RETURNED.
IN THAT CASE
I ASK YOU, WHO IS THE NEW ACE...
IN KIN-JOU'S PLACE!!

SO-
HOKU'S
ACE

WOULD
BE ME.

RIDE.196 ACE IMAIZUMI!

WELL SAID, IMAIZUMI !!

MAKI-SHIMA-SAN ...SINCE YOU'RE ALSO A THIRD-YEAR ...
KWAH !!
U-UM, BUT I THOUGHT OUR ACE IS YOU

EH?

AND NO ONE BUT HIM CAN STOP ME.
NO ONE BUT ME CAN STOP HIM

BETWEEN TOUDOU AND ME, WHOEVER MOVES UP FROM HERE, WE'LL ALWAYS END UP MARKED BY THE OTHER!!

IMA-IZUMI GETS IT.

THE BOTH OF US WILL PROBABLY END UP CRUSHING EACH OTHER TO PIECES!

WHEN THAT HAPPENS
CRUSH-ING EACH OTHER ...!!
THAT WOULD BE HAKONE ACADEMY'S FUKUTOMI!!
YOU NEED A GUY WHO CAN REALLY GO FOR THE GOAL AT THE READY!!
AND MUSTN'T FALTER, FOR NOT EVEN A SECOND, NOT EVEN A MILLI-METER
HE BEARS THE FATES OF THE ENTIRE TEAM ON HIS SHOULDERS
IT'S HEAVY PRESS-URE AND RESPON-SIBILITY...
TAKES ALL OF THEIR WISHES AND FEELINGS WITH HIM
AND FOR US, IMAIZUMI!!
THAT MEANS HE'S READY NOW
CLAIM THAT RESPON-SIBILITY ON HIS OWN...
BUT I DIDN'T THINK THAT HE WOULD

RIDE.196 ACE IMAIZUMI!

YOU HAVE THE LOOK
OF SOMEONE WHO WOULD DIE BEFORE GIVING UP THE GOAL!! FIRST-YEAR!!
LET'S RACE, FUKUTOMI-SAN
WITH TEN-SION ..!!
T-THE AIR IS SO THICK

ゴミッ
THAT'S RIGHT!!
IN THAT CASE
SHOW ME!!
SOKUKO

FOLLOW ME, IMAIZUMI !!
HAKO-GAKU IS ON THE MOVE!
I KNOW!
WHETHER YOU CAN LIVE UP TO THAT INTENT OR NOT!!
HAKOGAKU
GAKU

I'LL PULL YOU TO THE GOAL!!
SOHOKU
OKAY!!
I LEAVE
THIS JERSEY PACKED WITH ALL OF OUR WISHES
AND MINE!!
NARU-KO'S ...
KIN-JOU'S TADO-KORO'S
OKAY!!
IN YOUR HANDS, IMAIZUMI!!
SOHOKU

I'M STILL SHAKING FROM THE WEIGHT OF IT EVEN NOW THAT I COULD THROW UP EVERYTHING I ATE TODAY!!
HOW HEAVY THE WEIGHT OF WHAT I'VE SHOULDERED UPON MYSELF IS.
MAKISHIMA-SAN KINJOU-SAN TADOKORO-SAN
NARUKO ONODA
EVERY ONE
I UNDERSTAND

SOHOKU
WHAT I'M RESPON-SIBLE FOR RIGHT NOW...
IS ALL THE EFFORTS WE'VE PUT INTO BIKING

ALL OF THE TIME THAT WE'VE SPENT ON IT!!
SHO !!
GAKU !!
GAKU !!
GET BACK, TOU-DOU !!
GAKU
SHOMEN

THEIR ACE IS GETTING AHEAD!!
ON THE LEFT IS A WALL!
YOU HAVE SHOWN ME YOUR SPIRIT. BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR RIDING? WILL YOU BE ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH ME, FIRST YEAR?
AND TO YOUR RIGHT IS MY TEAM!!

WOO
OOO
OH
SOW
OOOOH
WAH, IMAIZUMI-KUN HIT THE WALL!
SOWOW
I WILL GROW STRONGER!!

I WILL BE-COME MUCH
MUCH-
STR-ONG-ER!!
AT TOP SPEED, HE FOLLOWED ME...
A DECISION MADE WITHOUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION... SHARP EYES...
NOT ONLY DID HE CATCH UP, BUT HE GOT AHEAD OF ME AND HELD ME BACK...!!
YES !!
SIMPLY CALLING YOUR-SELF THE ACE
I SEE... SO YOU AREN'T
KWAH
I- INCRED-IBLE, IMA-IZUMI-KUN...
BUT, I WILL SAY THIS FIRST...
IMA-IZUMI !!

I WILL BE STRONG-ER!!
I AM STR-ONG !!
THEN

A RACE IS LIKE A CHEMICAL CHANGE IN PROGRESS!!

EACH RACER CLASHES WITH THE OTHER, USING THE ELEMENTS THEY HAVE NURTURED.

BUT

THE RESULT OF A RACE MAKES WAY FOR EVOLUTION!!

MONSTERS LIKE THIS GUY
THERE ARE SOMETIMES PEOPLE LIKE HIM...

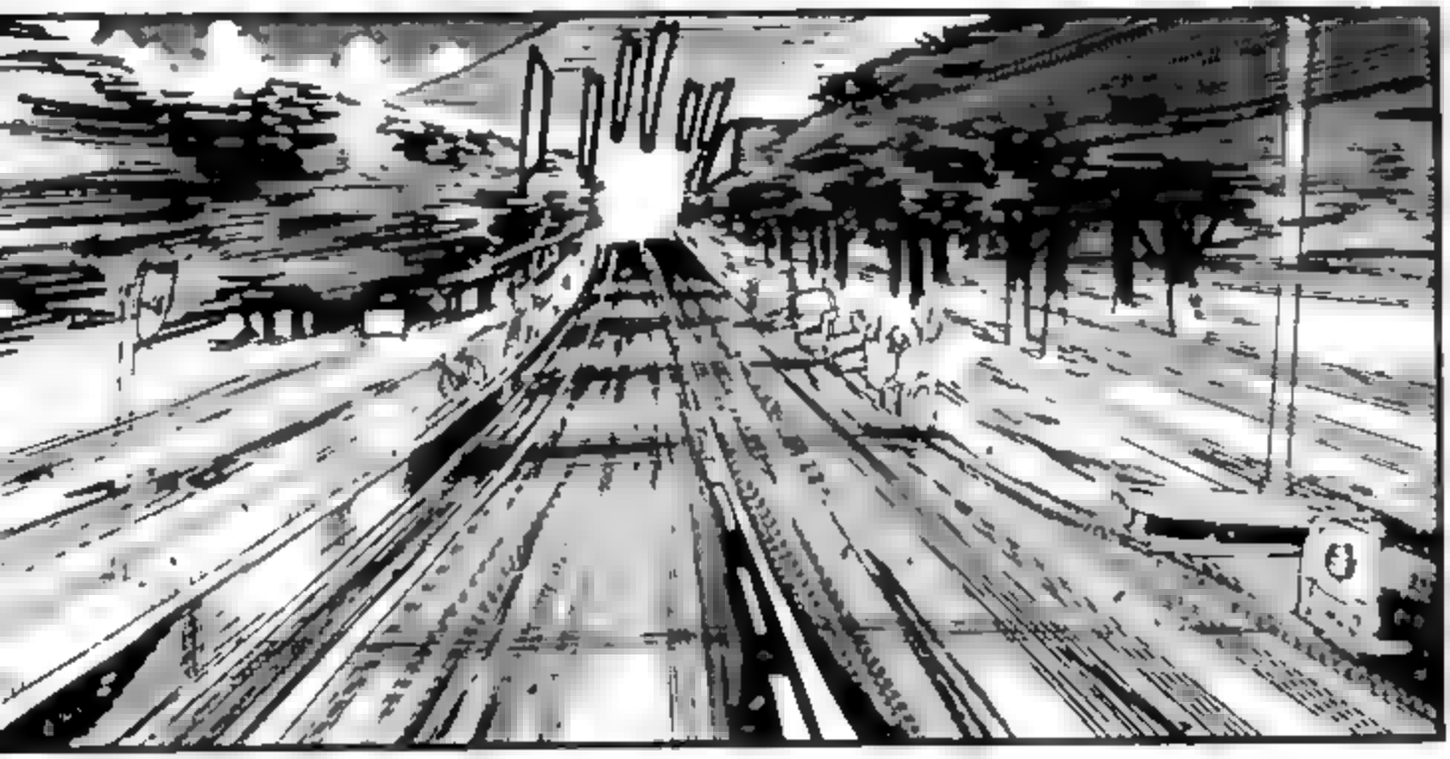
VICTORY BRINGS CERTAINTY
RIVE
WHILE DEFEAT INVITES REVOLUTION.

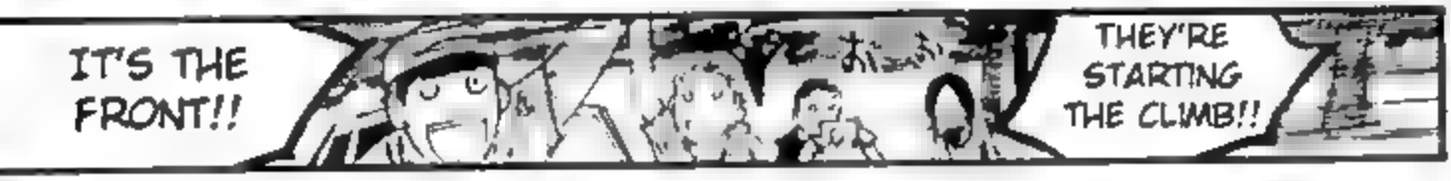
THE DORMANT FIGHTING INSTINCT INSIDE FLARES UP
TO BE POLISHED AND REFINED!

IMA-IZUMI ...
SHUN-SUKE ...!!
SEEING SUCH GROWTH WOULD BE HEARTENING IF HE WERE A TEAMMATE, BUT AS AN ENEMY...!!
I AM THE ACE. THERE-FORE
I WILL BE STRON-GER THAN YOU...
IT'S NO LONGER A LEVEL TO BE UNDER-ESTIMATED...!!
THIS PRES-SURE ...
I THOUGHT THAT "SOHOKU" WAS SIMPLY HANGING ON BY ITS LAST FRAYING THREAD, BUT...
HOW FAR YOU CAN KEEP UP
VERY WELL THEN! LET'S SEE
HAKONE ACADEMY'S ACE, FUKUTOMI-SAN!!
WHO... ACHIEVE EVOLU-TION IN THE MIDDLE! RATHER THAN THE END OF A RACE!!
RIDE.197
EVOLUTION

A DIS-
TANCE
OF 15
KILO-
METERS
TO THE
VERY
LAST
GOAL!!
FROM
HERE IS
THE
LAST
UPHILL
SLOPE
WITH THE
KINGS,
SOHOKU
!!

MOUNT FUJI'S AZAMI LINE!!
THE VERY LAST PLACE TO COMPETE FOR THE PEAK ON THIS STEEP UPHILL...
北高自転車競技

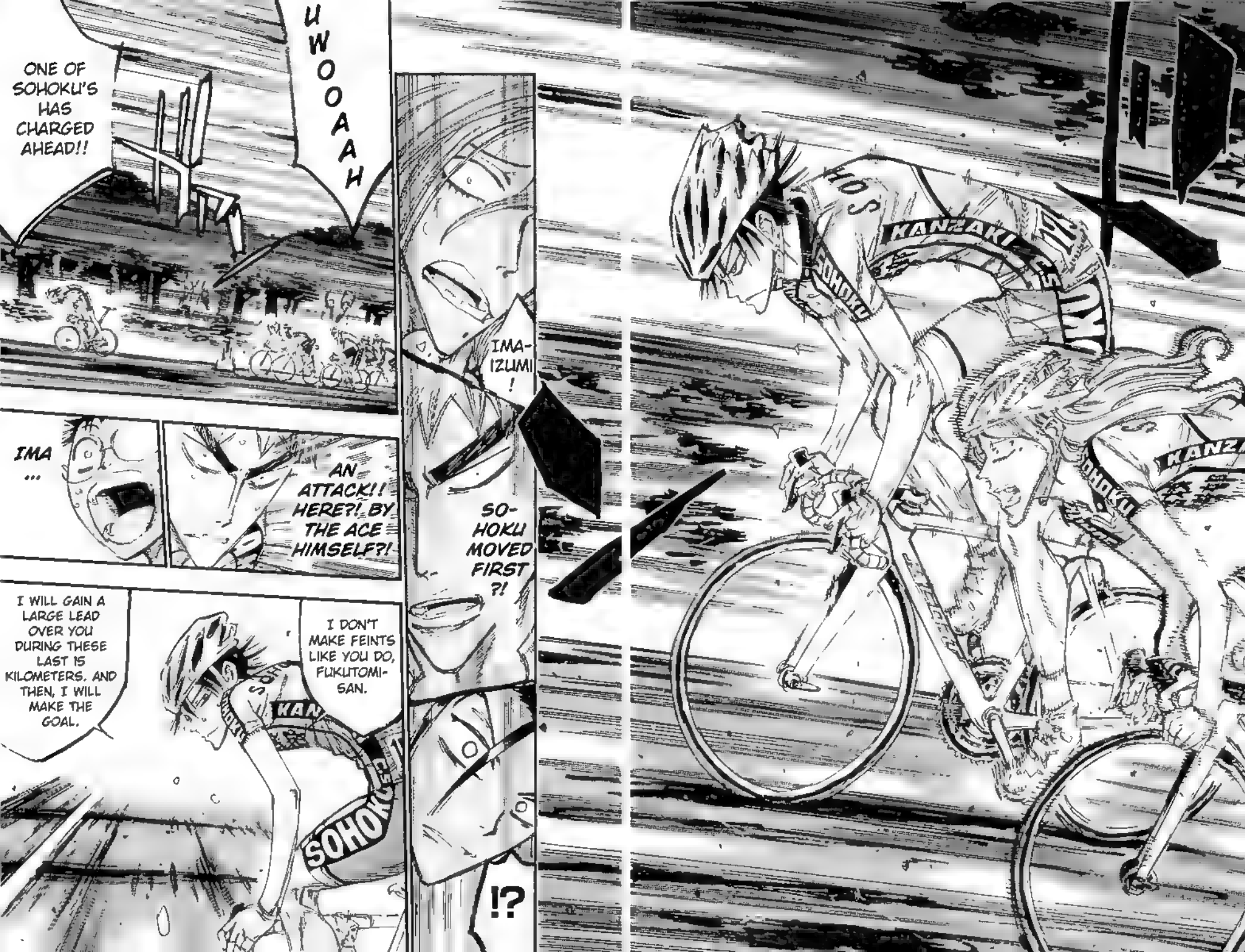



IT'S THE FRONT!!
THEY'RE STARTING THE CLIMB!!

ONCE GRAVITY HAS A HOLD OF THEM, THEY WILL NEVER..

GRAVITY WILL DRAG THEM DOWN!!
IF THEY REACT FOR EVEN A SECOND TOO SLOW AT OUR UPCOMING "FEINT"...

MAKE
IT
TO
THE
GOAL--

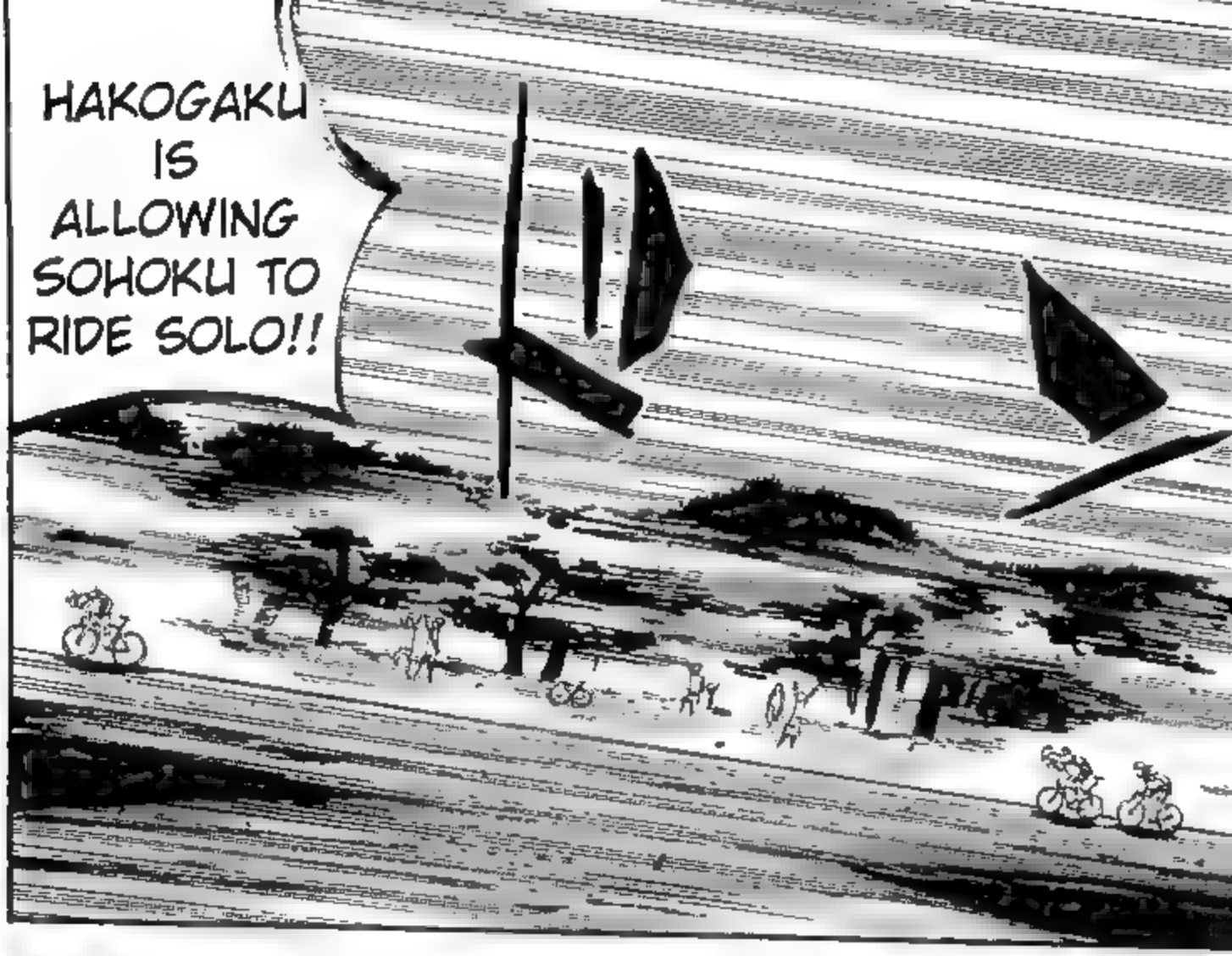

ONE OF SOHOKU'S HAS CHARGED AHEAD!!
UWOOAAH
IMA-IZUMI!
SO-HOKU MOVED FIRST?!
!?
IMA...
AN ATTACK!! HERE?! BY THE ACE HIMSELF?!
I WILL GAIN A LARGE LEAD OVER YOU DURING THESE LAST 15 KILOMETERS. AND THEN, I WILL MAKE THE GOAL.
I DON'T MAKE FEINTS LIKE YOU DO, FUKUTOMI-SAN.
SOHOKU
KANZAKI
HOS

I WILL WIN.
HE'S SERI-OUS !!
TOUDOU !!
I KNOW !!
YOU MAY TRY TO GET THE BETTER OF US BUT

IT'S NOT HAPPEN-ING, IMA-IZUMI-KUN!!

!?
YOU'LL HAVE TO

.....!!
GET OUT OF MY WAY, MAKI-CHAN!!
GET THROUGH ME FIRST!!


HAKOGAKU IS ALLOWING SOHOKU TO RIDE SOLO!!

CLIMBING THE ENTIRE DISTANCE ALL ON HIS OWN FROM HERE IS IMPOSSIB--
NO...
GAKU

IMA-IZUMI!!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HE MEANS TO DO

I'LL GO !!
FUKU !!
"ACHIEVING EVOLUTION IN THE MIDDLE OF A RACE"...!!
IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS RACE!!!
YOU TRULY MEAN TO BARE YOUR FANGS AT US...!!
ハアハア
ハアッ

AT-
TACK
ME?!
AND
ATTACK
HAKO-
NE-
ACAD-
EMY
?!
AH
?!
!?
IN A FIGHT
THAT USES
RAW POWER,
DO YOU
KNOW WHO
THE WINNER
IS?
THE
ANSWER
IS
SIMPLE.
ハッ
ハッ
ハッ
ハァ

IT'S THE ONE WHO'S STRONG-ER.
IT'S ALWAYS QUIET HERE AT THE FRONT ...
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED THE FRONT...
WHAT... IS WITH THIS GUY...?!
AM STRONGER THAN ANYONE.
I CAN TELL.
RIGHT NOW, I

YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP INSIST-ING ON RIDING THIS RACE SOLO, ARE YOU
KUH!! I WON'T LET YOU!!
IMA-IZUMI !!
ANO-THER ATTACK !!

ANOTHER ATTACK FROM HERE. WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO KEEP UP?
I'M GOING TO MAKE
ARE YOU OKAY?
!!
WE'RE PRETTY FAR FROM THE REST NOW.
ハッ
THIS GUY INTENDS...
ハッ
THIS GUY...
TO MAKE ME YIELD THROUGH SHEER POWER!!

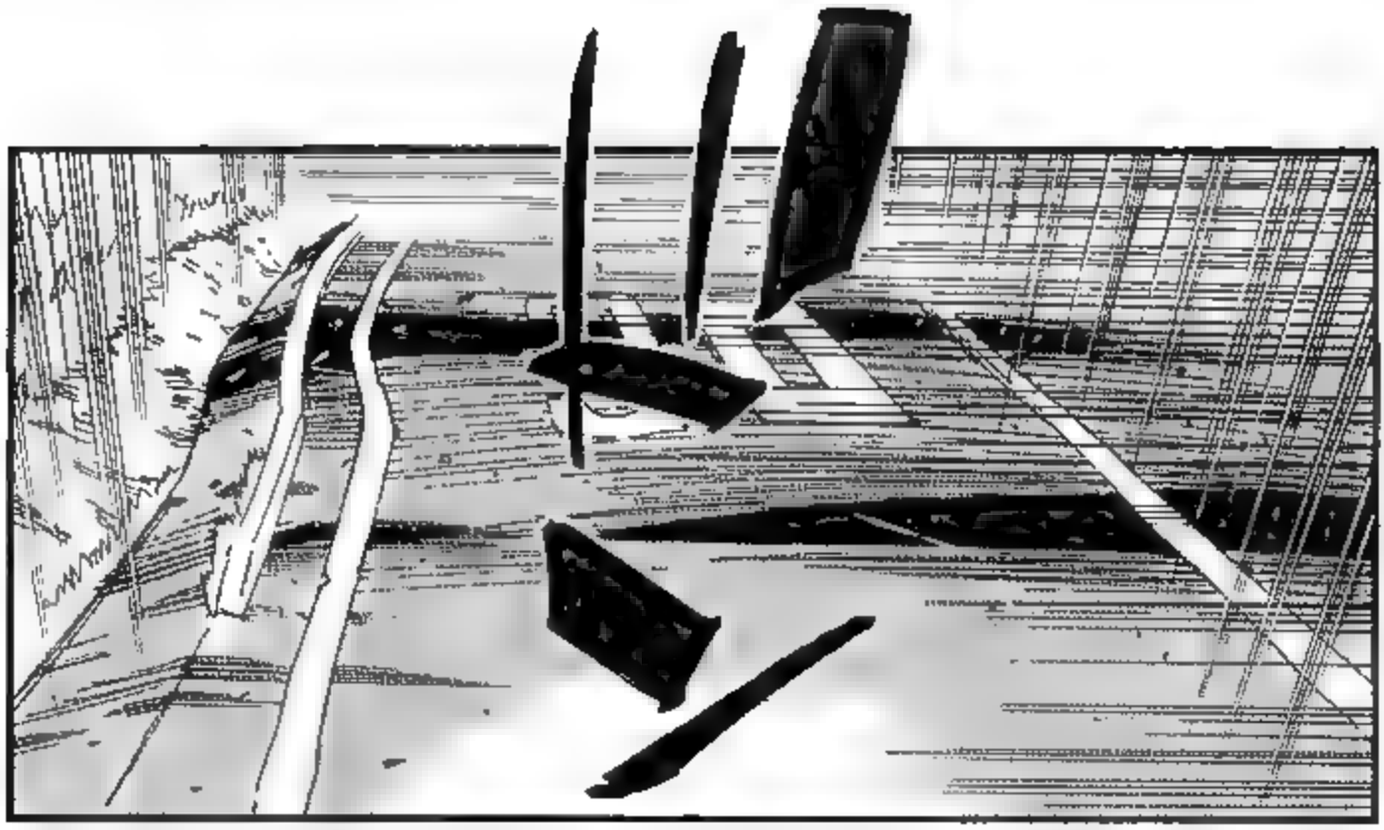
RIDE.198 AWAKENING

!!
I DIDN'T SEE THIS COMING EITHER!!
NOPE !!
SCHOKU
THE THOUGHT WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN CROSSED MY MIND!!
A RECKLESS ATTACK WITH 15 KILO-METERS TO GO?!
IT'S THE LAST DAY! IT'S AN UPHILL!
NOT TO MENTION INTER-HIGH IS AN IMPORTANT RACE! ALL OF THAT IS IMPRINTED INTO OUR MINDS!
RIDE.198
AWAKENING

ESPECIALLY IN THE MINDS OF US THIRD-YEARS !!
A FIRST-YEAR!!
WE'RE CONVINCED OF IT!
BECAUSE WE KNOW THE ATMOS-PHERE OF THE RACE!
WE GET CAUTIOUS!! WE GET FOCUSED ON PULLING FOR INTER-HIGH
BOTH ME
AND YOU
WE SAW NO OTHER WAY OF GRABBING THE LAST GOAL OF AN IMPORTANT RACE
BUT TO GO THROUGH WITH IT AT THE VERY END!!

FUKU !!
DAMN IT!!
GAKU
HAKOBA
AND FUKUTOMI !!
TOU-DOU
I WON'T LET YOU THROUGH !!
SOHGAKU
WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG
KANZAKI
173
LIFE BECOMES A DOWNRIGHT MESS BECAUSE THINGS AREN'T GOING YOUR WAY.
BUT BECAUSE YOU STILL HAVE YOUTH ON YOUR SIDE...
YOU HAVE THE GUTS TO TAKE A JAB AT SOMETHING, FAILING MISERABLY, AND SINK TO THE BOTTOM.
OKU

PULLING OFF A COMPLETELY RANDOM ACT THAT NO ONE EVER THOUGHT OF!!
OUT OF ONE IN A THOUSAND OF THOSE TRIES, YOU GET A LUCKY BREAK,
SOHOKU COULD WIN AGAINST US...
MOVE
I'LL NEVER LET TOUDOU THROUGH !!
THAT'S WHY I'LL BACK YOU UP WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT!!
IMA-IZUMI !!
A COM-PLETE-LY... RAN-DOM ACT!!
MOVE !!
YOU'RE IN MY WAY, MAKI-CHAN!!



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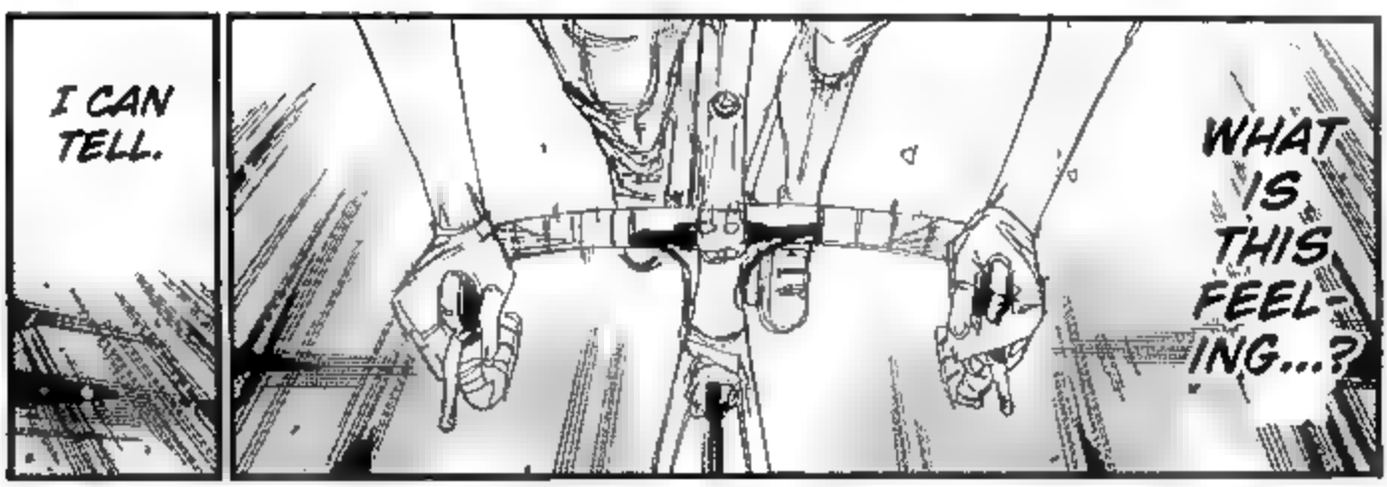
THE KINGS, HAKO-GAKU...
SO, LIKE I SAID...
HAKONE ACADEMY'S NUMBER ONE ACE...

WELL, UH...
WAIT, WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!
THE FRONT JUST CLIMBED UP TO WHERE I AM NOW, AND UH...
THE TWO OF THEM.

REPEAT THAT ONE MORE TIME! I DON'T GET WHAT YOU SAID!

BY OVER FIFTY METERS!!
HAS THE LEAD TAKEN FROM HIM BY SOHOKU'S FIRST-YEAR
SOHOKU


I CAN TELL.
WHAT IS THIS FEEL-ING...?

HOW MUCH POWER TO PUT IN. WHAT COURSE TO RIDE ON.
THE ANGLE OF THE SLOPE. WHAT GEAR TO SWITCH TO.
I CAN "TELL" !!

I CAN TELL PRECISELY HOW I AM SUPPOSED TO MOVE.
THE MOST EFFICIENT AND SHORTEST ROUTE TO THE GOAL...
175
175
SOHOKU

IT'S AS IF I'M LOOKING DOWN FROM ABOVE AT ALL THAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN.
THE BUMPS OF THE ROAD AND THE POSITIONS OF THE SPECTATORS.
I CAN PRE-DICT CLEAR-LY
SOHOKU

I CAN TELL ALL OF IT!
SOHOKU

SOHOKU
KANZAKI
SOHOKU
GAKU
KA
ハア
IS THIS WHAT IT FEELS LIKE WHEN YOUR SENSES ARE SHARPENED TO THEIR FINEST POINT...?
THE SMELLS AND SOUNDS...
ハア
GOOD REACTION, SOHOKU!!
HE'S HELD BACK HAKO-GAKU!!
DOES HE HAVE EYES ON THE BACK OF HIS HEAD?!
UGH ...!
HAKO
GAKU

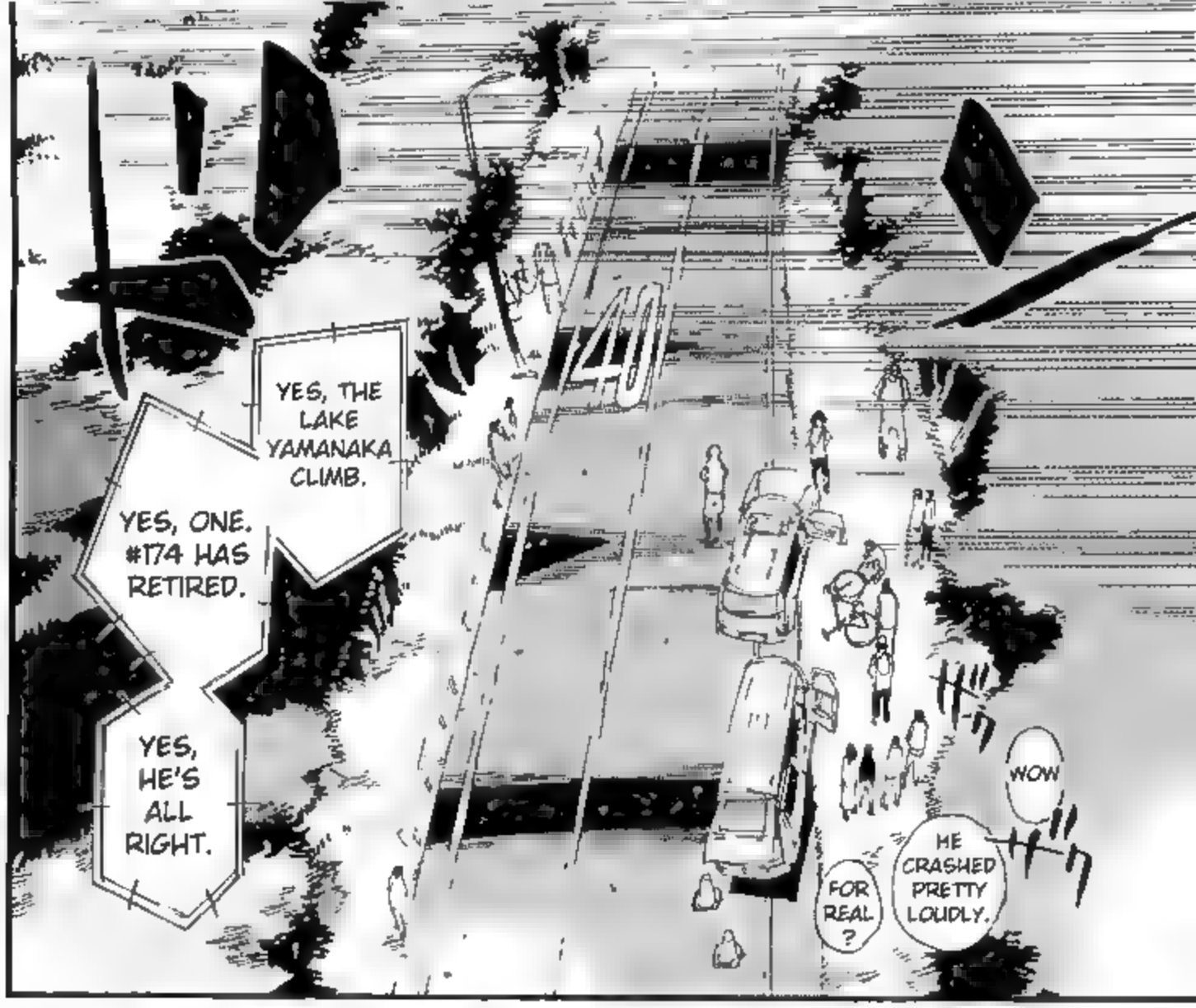
AS I THOUGHT, THE FRONT
NOT A SINGLE UNNECES-SARY BIT OF THEM ENTER MY MIND...
IS GLOR-IOUSLY QUIET !!
IT FEELS GOOD...

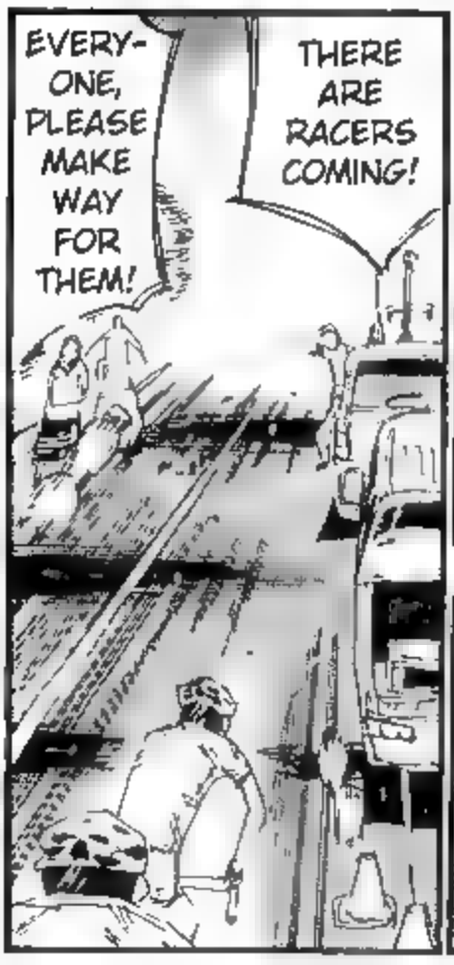
THIS FEEL-ING OF PLEA-SURE ...
THIS IS THE FEELING OF PLEA-SURE YOU GET WHEN YOU'RE TURNING STRONG-ER!!

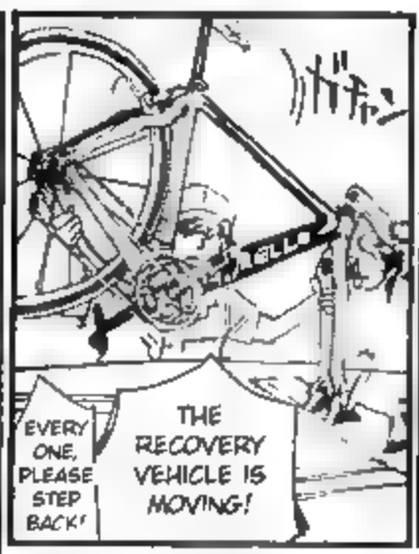
I CAN TELL.
RIGHT NOW, I
THAT REPLACE EACH OTHER IN MERE SECONDS !!
THE VERY CELLS OF MY BODY
MY ARMS
MY HAIR
MY LEGS
AM IM- PRO- VING !!
THAN HIM!!
I AM BECOM- ING VASTLY STRONG- ER

I CAN WIN...!!

THE CHAM-PION-SHIP
I CAN WIN
RIGHT NOW
IF NOTHING ABOUT THIS SITUATION CHANGES


YES, THE LAKE YAMANAKA CLIMB.
YES, ONE. #174 HAS RETIRED.
YES, HE'S ALL RIGHT.
WOW
HE CRASHED PRETTY LOUDLY.
FOR REAL?


EVERY-ONE, PLEASE MAKE WAY FOR THEM!
THERE ARE RACERS COMING!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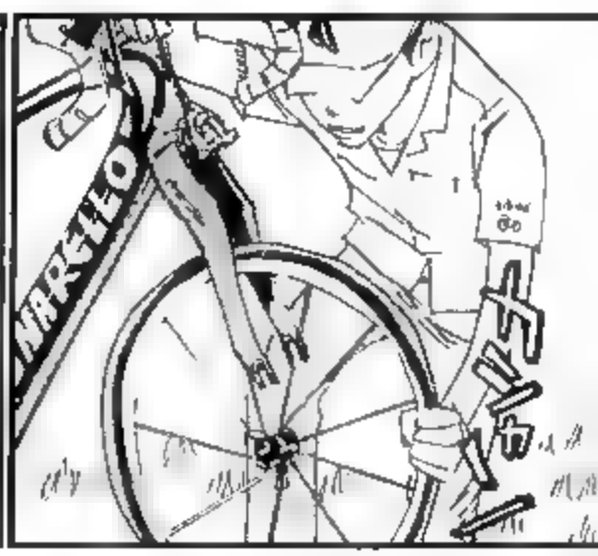
EVERY ONE, PLEASE STEP BACK!
THE RECOVERY VEHICLE IS MOVING!



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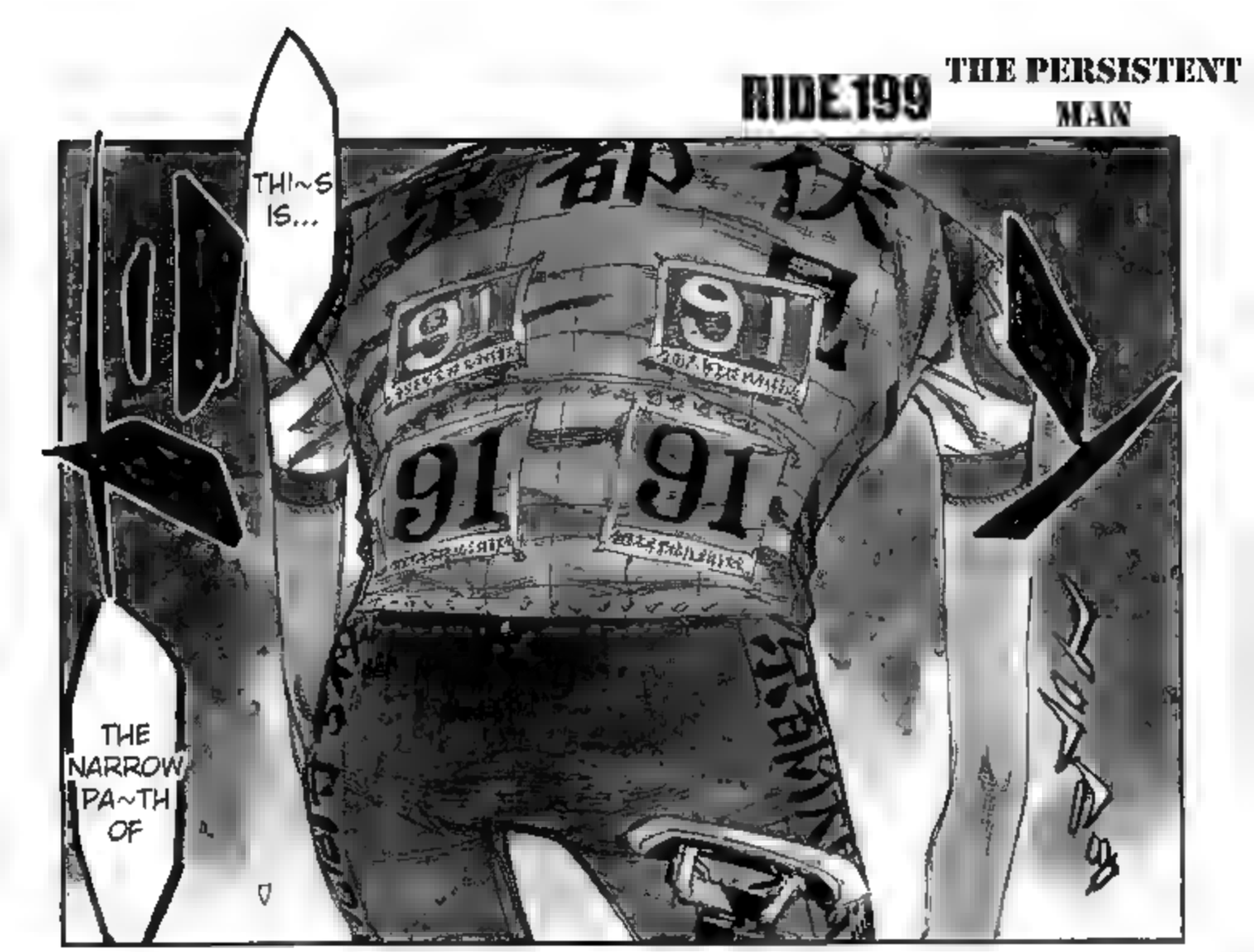
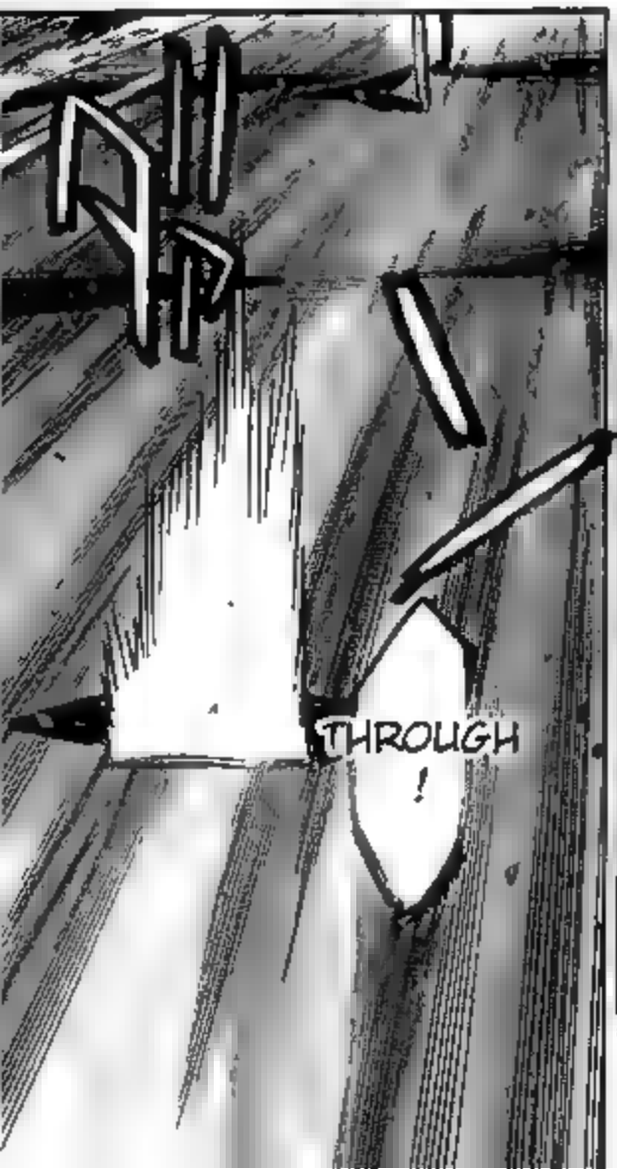
ハァ

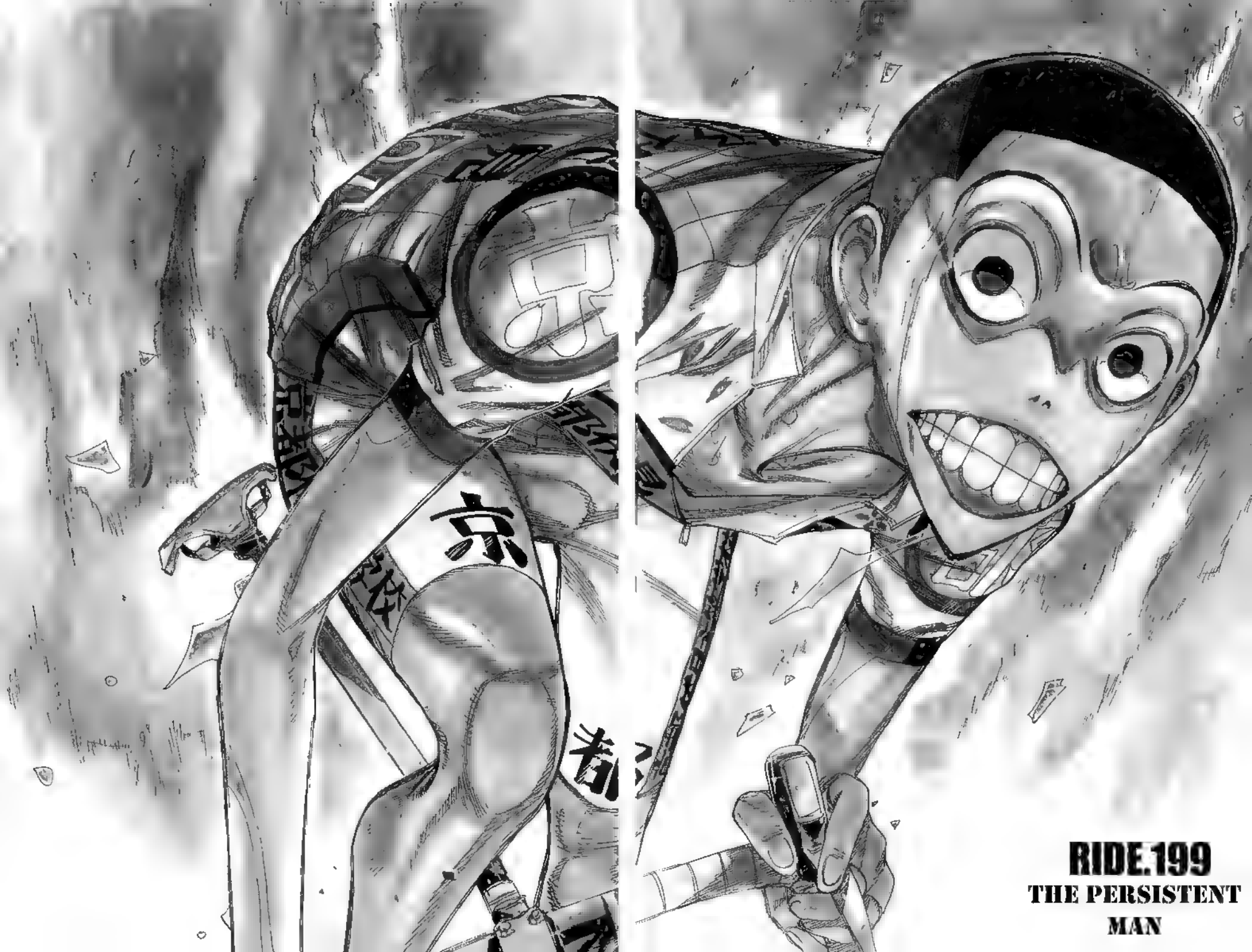
THERE ARE TWO RACERS!
ハァ ハァ
ハァ ハァ
ハァ ハァ
I LEAVE THE REST
ﾌﾗｯ
TO YOU ...
WHOA, ANOTHER SPILL!
THE OTHER ONE IS STILL CLIMBING!!

ハア
ハア
ハア
ハア
92
京都伏見高校
IT'S KYO-TO
FUSHI-MI!!
ハア
ハア
COUGH
4K/H
ホッ
ホッ
WH-OA
IS HE OK-AY?
HE'S GOING FOR THE GOAL FROM ALL THE WAY BACK HERE?!
...ACTUALLY, THAT GUY WHO JUST MOVED UP
...YOU DON'T TH NK ...?
WE'VE GOT A WIDE OUT!



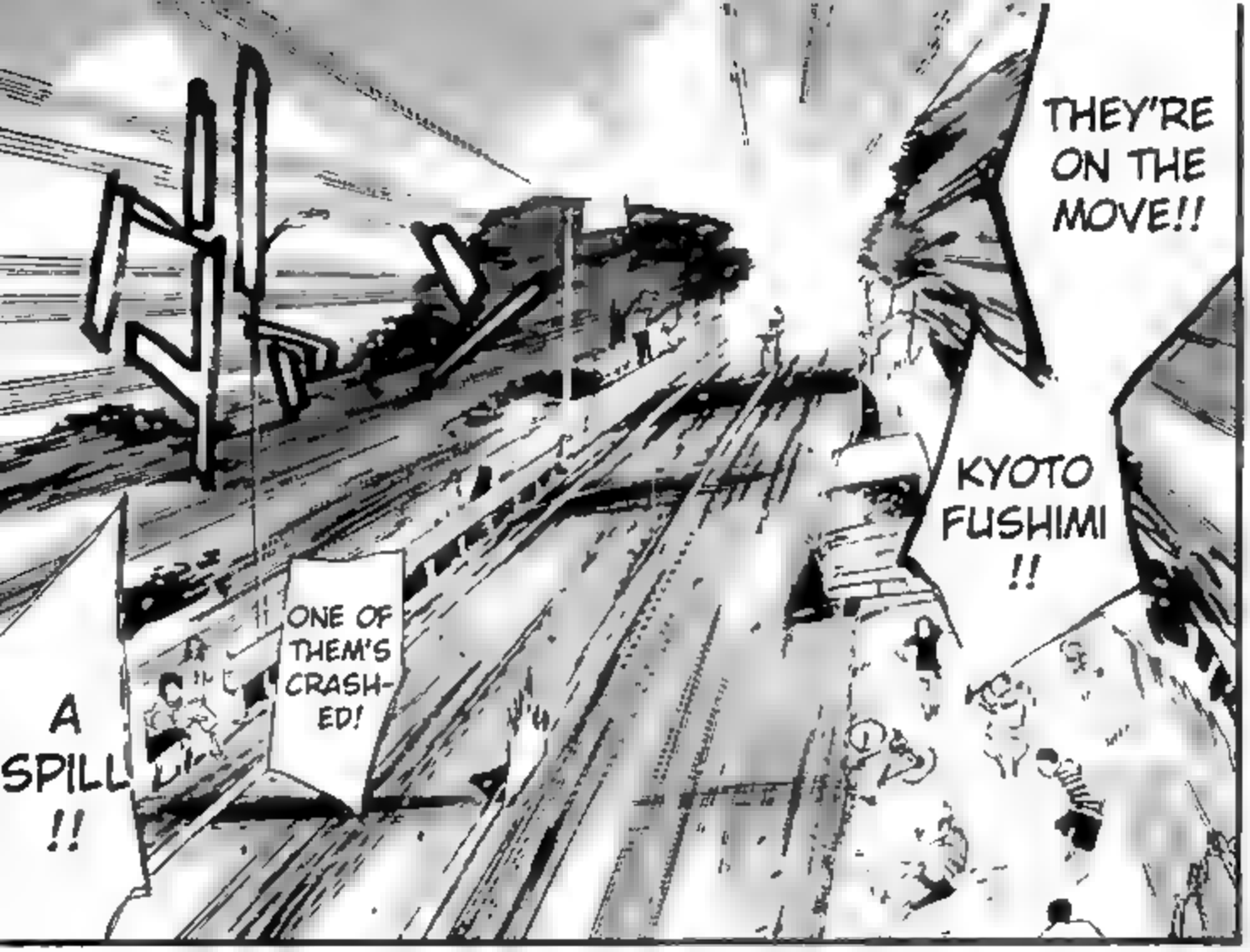


*REFERENCE TO JAPANESE CHILDREN SONG, "*TOORYANSE*." THE ORIGINAL LYRICS GO "PASS THROUGH, PASS THROUGH, WHERE DOES THIS NARROW PATH LEAD."



RIDE.199
THE PERSISTENT MAN

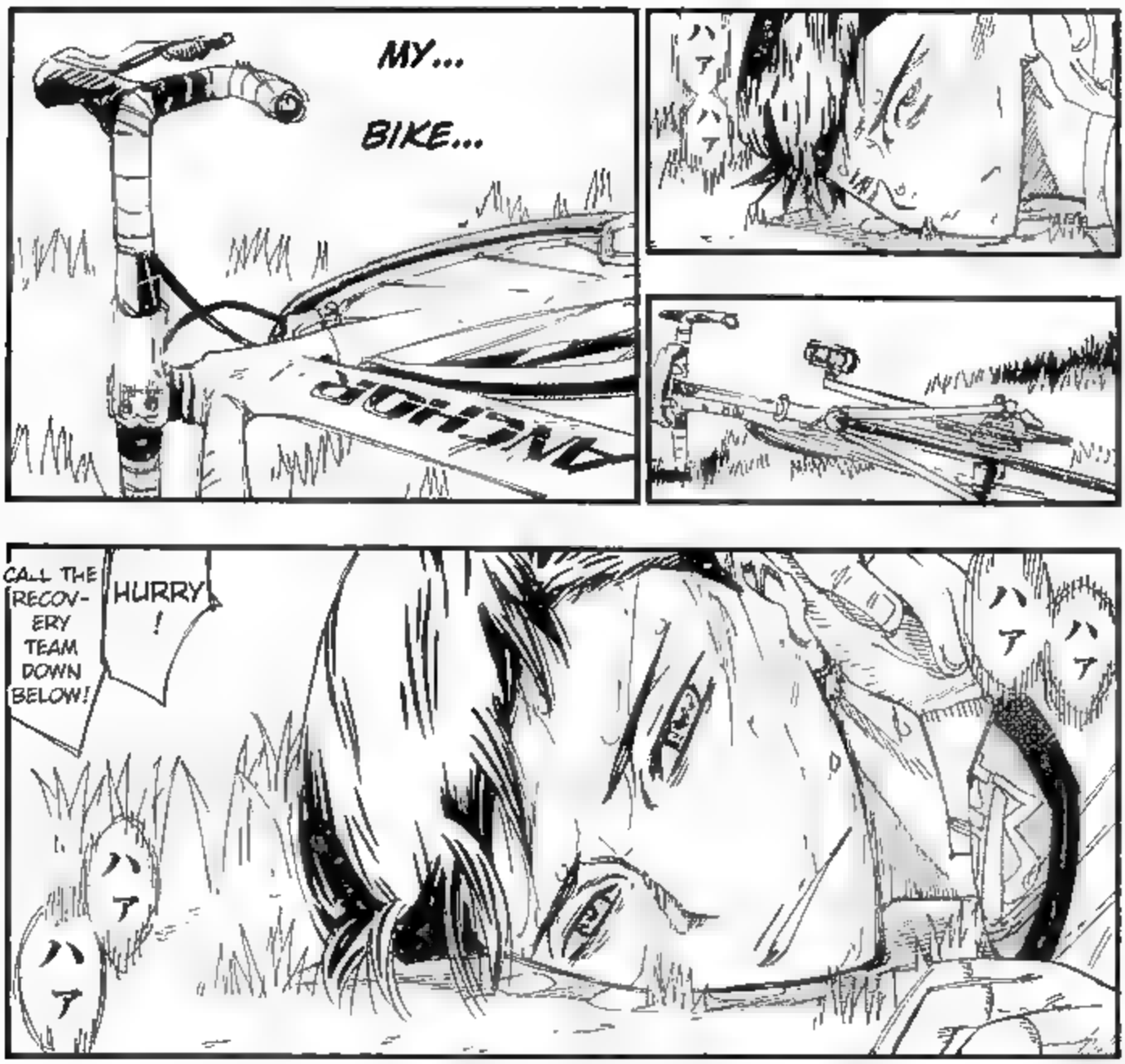
IMAIZUMI SHUNSUKE


THEY'RE ON THE MOVE!!
KYOTO FUSHIMI !!
ONE OF THEM'S CRASH-ED!
A SPILL !!

I THINK HE'S PLANNING TO GRAB THE GOAL FROM HERE!!
HE SPURT AHEAD REALLY FAST!
YOU DON'T THINK THAT #91...?
YOU LOOK ILL
ARE YOU OKAY?! HEY!!

ハァ
ハァ
MI... MIDOUSUJI...
ハァ
MIDOU-SUJI
ハァ
SERIO-USLY?!
LIKE HELL IF I KNOW, BUT...
WILL HE BE ABLE TO CATCH UP TO THE OTHERS FROM HERE?
BRING WATER !

THE COLOR OF HIS SKIN IS TURNING MUD-BROWN!
I LEAVE IT... TO YOU... OUR...
ハア ハア
A WET TOWEL, TOO.
MIDOU-SUJI
JERSEY!!
ハア ハア ハア ハア
ハッ ハッ
I DON'T EVEN... HAVE ENOUGH POWER LEFT TO MAKE A FIST...
ハア
BRING MORE TOWELS!
TAKE OFF HIS SHOES!
ハア ハア ハア
ハア ハア


MY...
BIKE...
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CALL THE RECOV-ERY TEAM DOWN BELOW!
HURRY!
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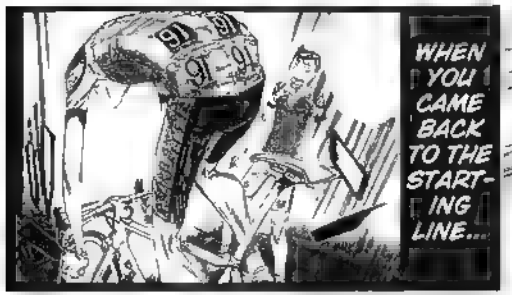

MY LAST INTER-HIGH...

IT'S OVER...

HOLY CRAP, IT'S #91!
HE'S CLIMBING AT SUPER SPEED!
ALL BY HIMSELF?!
UWAH!

GROSS
GROSS
GROSS
GROSS
GROSS
GUH-
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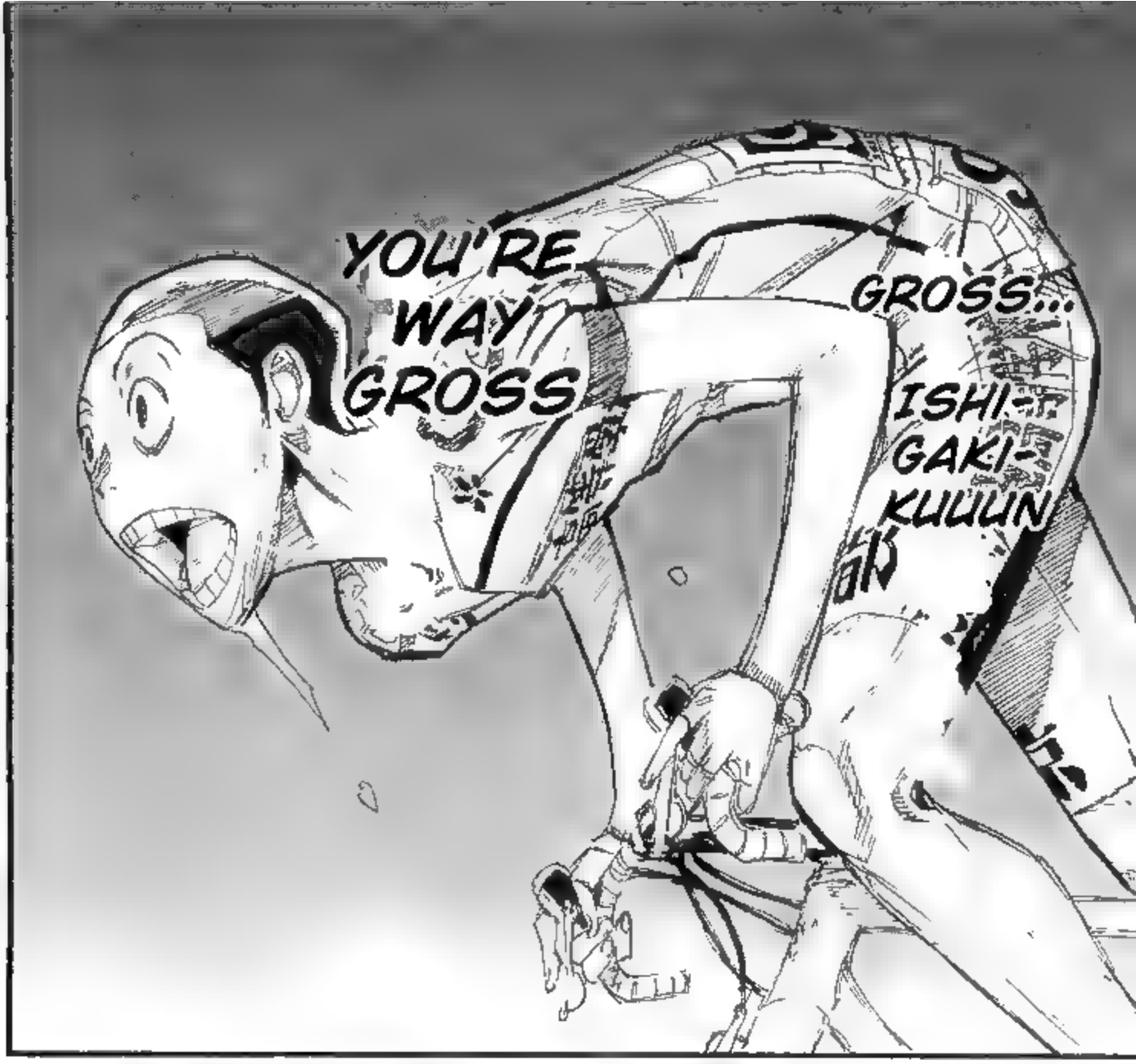
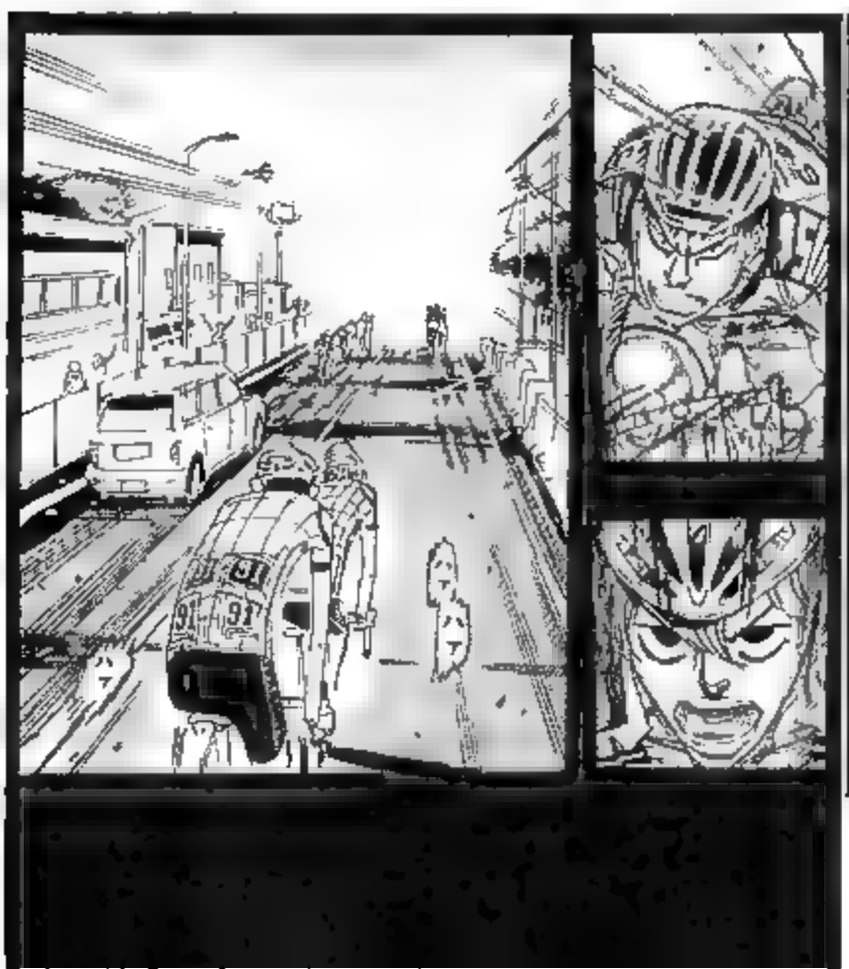
SSS
SSS
SS
UWAAAH
HE'S LEANING FORWARD WHILE DANCING!
HE'S FAST!!


YOU'RE WAY GROSS
GROSS...
ISHI-GAKI-KUUUN



EVEN IF WE'RE A LITTLE BEHIND THOUGH, I CAN CATCH UP TO THEM
I KNOW !!
THE SCUM FLIES WENT UP AHEAD
PICK UP THE PACE OR THEY DROP US
COME ON, ISHIGAKI-KUUUN
91
92
PULL ME LIKE YOU'RE GONNA DIE UNTIL WE REACH THE MOUNTAINS.
YOU GOTTA DO BETTER THAN THAT, ISHIGAKI-KUUUN.
GO LIKE MAD UNTIL THEN.
I DON'T CARE IF YOU DROP BACK AND FALL OVER LATER.
NOT... NOT YET, ISHIGAKI KOUTAROU !!
ENDURE IT!!
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...
PU PU
YOU'RE HAPPY
THAT I RETURNED TO RACE FOR THE THIRD DAY, AREN'T YOU?
ROOH.....
THAT'S RIGHT !!
THAT'S ENOUGH. YOUR JOB ENDED AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN.
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ISHIGAK - KUUUN?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PULL ME UP THE CLIMB.

I CAN HANDLE THE REST ON MY OWN--
LET ME PULL YOU, MIDOU-SUJI!!
YEAH, I'VE THROWN IT AWAY.
WHAT? PUPU, IS THIS YOUR PRIDE AS THE FORMER ACE COMING BACK?
PUPU, I TOLD YOU TO THROW THAT AWAY.
DO YOU THINK IT MAKES YOU LOOK COOL OR SOMETHING?
IS MY PRIDE AS YOUR ASSIST.
RIGHT NOW, THIS PRIDE I FEEL
WE'RE THE SAME...
THE SHAPE OF IT IS JUST DIFFERENT, THAT'S ALL. WE AIM FOR THE SAME "VICTORY."
BUT WHEN I RODE WITH YOU, BEFORE THE GOAL, MY THINKING CHANGED.
TO BE HONEST, UNTIL THE SECOND DAY... UNTIL YESTERDAY I THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS THE "FORMER ACE."

IF I'M NO USE TO YOU ANYMORE, DROP ME RIGHT AWAY!!
UNTIL THEN, I'LL PULL YOU AT FULL SPEED!!
GROSS.
YOU'RE GROSS, ISHIGAKI-KUUUN!!
ASSIST?! HAAH?! "PRIDE AS YOUR ASSIST"?! RIDICULOUS!! YOU'RE JUST FOOLING YOURSELF!!
THREW IT AWAY?!
ASK ANYONE AND THEY'LL ANSWER THAT THEY WANT TO REACH THE GOAL FIRST!!
IN A ROAD RACE, NOTHING TASTES SWEETER THAN THAT!! YOU SAY YOU'RE HAPPY TO ASSIST, BUT YOU'RE JUST FOOLING YOURSELF FROM HOW YOU REALLY FEEL DEEP INSIDE!!

I'M SORRY
FOR NOT REALIZING THAT WHEN WE FIRST MET.
YOU REALLY ARE A PURE GUY.
WHEN I LOSE, I MAKE EXCUSES,
AND I OFTEN CLING ONTO THE PAST.
I GET DISTRACTED A LOT N MY THOUGHTS.
WHAT'S THAT? THAT'S GROSS.
NOW YOU'RE ACTING LIKE MY SENPAI? GROSSSS.
I AM RIDING THIS IN-HIGH RIGHT NOW
AT A HIGH-RANKING POSITION.
BUT
MY ABILITIES, ALSO, AREN'T ENOUGH TO BE OF CHALLENGE HERE, AGAINST THE ENTIRE NATION.
EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T SEEM AWARE OF THAT.
BECAUSE YOU PICKED ME BACK UP.

I WAS CHANGED BECAUSE OF YOU.
BY YOUR STREN-GTH.
BY YOUR QUICK-THINKING AND AB LITY TO ADAPT.
BY YOUR INSISTENCE ON MOVING FORWARD, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.
THE DREAM OF SEEING YOUR BACK
AS YOU CONQUER THE NATION!!
THAT PURE DRIVE !!
MIDOU-SUJI!! THIS IS A PIECE OF MY SOUL!!
COULD YOU TAKE IT WITH YOU TO THE GOAL?!
THAT'S WHY I SINCERE-LY WANT
TO ASSIST THAT DRIVE OF YOURS.
YOU'VE GIVEN ME A DREAM !

IT'S THE BIB PACKED WITH MY THREE YEARS OF WORK IN IT!!
NO. THAT'S GROSS.
THAT'S IT!!

FOR ME?!
ARE YOU PUTTING ON A SHOW, ISHIGAKI-KUUUN
SOR-RY.
MY LEGS... ARE GOING TO GIVE OUT SOON. BUT BEFORE THEY DO...
I WANT-ED TO MAKE SURE
"I WON'T BE RACING"
AFTER WHAT HAPP-ENED YESTER-DAY...
WASN'T FEELING DIFFERENT-LY FROM BEFORE!!
THAT WHO YOU ARE TODAY
THAT'S THE MIDOU-SUJI THAT I KNOW!!
HAAH ?!

I WON'T FEEL DIFFER-ENT-LY.
HAAH ...
ROAD-RACING IS A FIGHT WHERE THE FASTEST COMPETE BY SHAVING DOWN EVERY-THING TO ITS BARE MINIMUM.
EVEN ONE SILLY SCRAP OF CLOTH ADDS WEIGHT.
IT'S UNNE-CESS-ARY.
ALL I WANT

HE'S CHASING THE FRONT!!
IT'S KYOTO FUSHI-MI!!
NO WAY... IMPOSS-IBLE!
CAN HE MAKE IT?
I CAN DO IT. I WON'T LET A SINGLE PERSON RIDE IN FRONT OF ME. IT'S SIMPLE...
IMPOSS-IBLE?! PUPU!
IS VIC-TO-RY!!
91
91
91
91
150

AFTER ALL, THEY'RE ONLY ZAKU !!
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!!
EH?
6
KANZAKI
176
176
!!

TIGER
36